

LIBBY PURVES
The twisted logic that managed to turn Elizabeth Hurley's attackers into victims. **page 16**

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THE TIMES

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MONDAY MARCH 27 1995

Rifkind talks of autumn challenge

Major ready to get rid of Hanley

By NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Tories believe that John Major has decided to move Jeremy Hanley from his post as Conservative Party Chairman.

Predictions of Mr Hanley's demise came as Cabinet jitters over the Prime Minister's own future led two senior ministers openly to contradict one another about the likelihood of a leadership challenge. Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, became the first Cabinet minister to say that Mr Major could be challenged in the autumn. David Hunt, the Cabinet troubleshooter, ruled out the possibility.

According to well-placed sources, the Prime Minister has reluctantly come to the conclusion that the accident-prone Mr Hanley lacks the presentational and political skills to survive the rigours of fronting a three-week general election campaign.

He is expected to wait until a summer reshuffle to move Mr Hanley to another post or drop him from the Cabinet. However, some leading Tories want him to act more quickly, making Mr Hanley the scapegoat for the "massacre" expected in the May 4 local elections.

"The Prime Minister has given up on the chairman," one insider said. "He knows we cannot go into an election with him at Central Office."

Mr Hunt dismissed suggestions that the loss of a thousand or more council seats could trigger a leadership contest in the autumn. "It is completely hypothetical and it is not going to happen," he said on BBC television.

Mr Rifkind came closer to



Hanley: guilty of a succession of gaffes

reflecting the increasingly restive mood on the Tory benches by acknowledging that the Prime Minister could face a challenge. "It is always possible you'll get some very foolish individual backbencher who might put himself up just as... a stalking horse. But I don't think it will be very significant," he said on BBC radio.

As John Carlisle, one of Mr Major's most outspoken right-wing critics, called for a contest to "clear the air", prominent figures from both wings of the party privately admitted that plots were being hatched to oust Mr Major from power in the summer.

Their taste for intrigue seemed little affected by the latest MORI poll for *The Sunday Times*, which suggested that the Tories had little to gain by ditching Mr Major. It found that Labour's 34-point lead would be cut by only three points if Michael Howard was Prime Minister. The President of the Board

of Trade, the front-runner to take over, has made it clear he will not move against the Prime Minister. But if Mr Major does decide to step down, Mr Heseltine is said to favour a "bloodless coup" in which the party is spared a divisive contest between Left, Right and Centre.

Mr Heseltine is said to doubt whether the Tories could recover from the spectacle of himself, Kenneth Clarke, Michael Portillo and possibly others openly battling for the crown. Instead, he is said to hope that the other contenders might agree to stand aside and allow him to take over as the man best placed to give the Tories a sporting chance.

Yesterday, Mr Heseltine's supporters indicated that they were putting out feelers to the Right, assuring it of a "dominant" role in any Heseltine-led government with Mr Portillo occupying a senior post such as Foreign or Trade Secretary.

One of Mr Heseltine's admirers said: "If it does happen — and the odds on Major going by the end of the year are 50-50 — he should go voluntarily instead of via a stalking horse challenge in the autumn and there has to be a deal between the Left and the Right."

"The Right is the dominant section within the party and the Centre-Left will have to go along with this. If the two wings decide to unite behind Hesza — and they are close to doing that — it also preserves Portillo for the future."

However, sources close to the other possible candidates

Continued on page 2, col 5



Damon Hill shows his frustration after spinning off in yesterday's São Paulo race

Pay of armed forces 'should be linked to performance'

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE armed forces are expected to be switched to performance-related pay in a radical review of conditions of service recommended by a report to be published by the Ministry of Defence next week.

A number of allowances which in the past have added significantly to pay packets, such as boarding school grants and flying pay, are also to be cut back, although not abolished. The boarding school allowance, equivalent to up to 80 per cent of fees, will no longer be handed out as of right to anyone posted overseas.

The proposed changes follow a review by Michael Ben, a former deputy chairman of British Telecom, who was asked to recommend a pay and management structure for the services that was appropriate for the post-Cold War Nineties and beyond.

Although some of his proposals are controversial, the aim of his inquiry was to rid the services of an antiquated and complex system which involves dozens of different pay bands, based on length of service and rank, and a wide range of allowances depending on whether a man or woman is serving at home or overseas.

The most radical proposal is understood to be the recommended introduction of performance-related pay. Instead of having similar pay scales for all three services, there would be a basic rate which would rise according to a person's responsibilities and achievements.

Six-monthly assessments are already carried out on all officers and Defence Ministry officials believe it is feasible to extend the system to pay.

One ministry source said: "It's not a question of how well you perform in a war, there

aren't many wars to go round. But the concept fits in with the Government's policy of rewarding higher levels of achievement. So, for example, an officer on, say, a basic pay of £40,000 might get a performance-related bonus of £1,500."

In the process of rationalising the scales, a number of ranks are expected to be axed, including second lieutenant in the Army and pilot officer in the RAF.

Other proposals are expected to include longer tours abroad, increasing from two years to between three and five, providing greater stability for the serviceman and his family. With extended tours, there would be less need to send children to boarding schools in Britain, thus reducing the demand for the school fees allowance.

The flying allowance, which amounts to more than £5,000 a year, is paid to qualified pilots and reviewed every five years, even if they rarely fly an aircraft. This payment is expected to be restricted to those who fly operationally on a regular basis.

Defence Ministry sources said it was likely there would be a transitional period before the changes in pay were implemented. Although the inquiry was not intended as a cost-cutting exercise, the changes proposed are likely to bring savings.

Performance-related pay was one of the most bitterly attacked proposals made by Sir Patrick Sheehy in his report in June 1993 on police responsibilities and rewards.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, decided against the full scheme and instead approved an "appraisal" system based on an officer's experience and skills. A pilot scheme is due to be introduced next year.

Open borders bring chaos

Seven of the 15 European Union states abolished internal borders yesterday and created immediate chaos among air travellers. Britain has not signed the Schengen accord, and British passengers landing in Madrid found themselves queuing, while French and Germans were waved through. **Page 10**
Leading article, page 19

Unspent millions lift water profits

Water companies have charged hundreds of millions of pounds for sewer renovation which has not been spent, industry experts say. The cash has helped 25 directors to paper profits of £4 million, according to *Panorama*. **Page 2**

US military action urged over men jailed in Iraq

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration was urged last night to consider taking military action against Baghdad after two Americans were jailed for eight years for straying across the Iraqi border.

Richard Lugar, a Republican senator who is seeking his party's presidential nomination, said that America should explore its military options in the affair. He said in an interview on NBC News: "I think we have to take that chance."

The belligerent remark echoed the angry reaction in Washington to the jailing of William Barlow, 39, and David Daliberti, 41, for hav-

ing entered Iraq illegally. Asked if America was considering military retaliation, Leon Panetta, White House Chief of Staff, said: "I'm not going to comment on what the President does or does not consider with regards to that area." However, he said America wanted an immediate release of the two men.

Relations between Washington and Baghdad are already more strained than usual. The Clinton Administration has persuaded the United Nations Security Council not to lift sanctions imposed after the Gulf War because Iraq is still failing to comply with UN resolutions

over weapons of mass destruction and war reparations.

There is hope that President Saddam Hussein could exercise his powers of pardon, as he did for three Britons and for an American.

In northern Iraq, the UN evacuated nearly 2,000 Turkish Kurd refugees, most of them women and children, out of the line of fire as Turkey continued its offensive against PKK rebels. The continuing military action was denounced yesterday by Lord Archer, the former Tory chairman, who was fund-raising for the Iraqi Kurds.

US demand, page 13

Hill forced out of Brazil Grand Prix

By OLIVER HOLT AND KATHRYN KNIGHT

DAMON HILL failed to finish in the Brazilian Grand Prix yesterday when he spun off the track with gearbox problems after 31 laps of the 71-lap race.

Michael Schumacher of Germany, the world champion, took the chequered flag in the opening race of the season, but his win was not immediately confirmed because of an inquiry into the fuel he used. Britain's David Coulthard, Hill's team-mate, was second. It was confirmed yesterday that Hill and Coulthard have joined the growing number of British Formula One drivers leaving Britain for financial benefits abroad.

Hill, who moved to Ireland two weeks ago with his wife

Georgie and children Oliver, 5, and Joshua, 3, is now renting a detached home in a seaside village on the outskirts of Dublin. Coulthard has rented an apartment in Monaco, the favoured haunt of Schumacher, among other grand prix stars.

The two racers have both recently had significant pay rises, which is understood to have precipitated their decisions to move.

A new contract with Williams doubled Hill's annual earnings to £1 million, while Coulthard's move from test driver to front rank raised his salary to £500,000 at the beginning of the year.

Sport, page 23

Lord Cardigan halts charge of party brigade

By EMMA WILKINS



Lord Cardigan: refused key to ancestral home

THE party was over before it began for 600 people who bought tickets for a black-tie event at the ancestral home of the Earl of Cardigan. He refused to hand over the keys a few hours before the starting time and may face legal action from the organisers.

Lord Cardigan, trustee of Tottenham House, a Grade I listed Palladian mansion near Marlborough, Wiltshire, had earlier agreed to the party. But when the organisers failed to provide buildings insurance he pulled out of the arrangement on Friday.

One of the partygoers who had paid £15 for a ticket expressed his displeasure by being sick out of a car window at the feet of Lord Cardigan, who spent six hours at the gates telling 75 carloads of guests that the party was off.

Lord Cardigan, 42, whose distant forebear led the charge of the Light Brigade, said: "I was told this was going to be a respectable black-tie party. But

judging by the sort of people that turned up, many of them wouldn't know what a black tie was, frankly."

He was approached earlier this year by Luke Summerbee and Mark Lodge, who last year founded a party-organising company called Premier Events. The pair, who are discussing legal action with their solicitors, have organised events at Grittleton Manor, near Bath, and Cheltenham Town Hall.

After providing public liability insurance, they were told that they needed to provide buildings insurance to cover the risk of fire or damage. When they failed to produce the insurance certificate, Lord Cardigan decided not to loan the ancestral seat, which the family left just after the Second World War.

He said: "When I saw the sort of people who were turning up — their dress and their behaviour — I could almost feel my house breathing a sigh of relief. Some of them had cans of beer under their coats and one just vomited down his window and vomited on the drive." Lord Card-

gan, who lives near Tottenham House at Savernake Lodge with his wife Rosamond, is joint trustee for the building, which is valued at £9 million. Until last year Tottenham House was one to Hawtrey's preparatory school, which has since merged with the Prince of Wales's prep school, Cheam, near Newbury, Berkshire.

"Imagine what would have happened if I had let the party go ahead and the house had burned down," Lord Cardigan said. "People would have doubted my sanity. I told the organisers that I was not prepared to hand over the keys unless they provided building insurance. After weeks of trying to get answers, they finally admitted at 6pm on the night of the party that they didn't have it."

Mr Lodge, 21, said: "We will be discussing things with our solicitors to see if there is a possibility of litigation against Lord Cardigan. This whole thing has given the company a bad name. It will be very difficult now to fund our next events."

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Attachés dig in as budgets come under fire



Soames: report not divulged

BY NIGEL WILLIAMSON
WHITEHALL CORRESPONDENT

TWO British defence attachés in Japan, where Britain does not sell arms, spent slightly more on official entertaining last year than John Major on No 10 receptions. The figures are £33,064 spent in Tokyo and £33,000 in Downing Street. An air commodore, a captain, a brigadier and a wing commander based in Paris spent £56,985. Britain also does not sell arms in France. Britain's 109 defence attachés, who serve in 70 countries, spent £977,820 on entertaining. In only 26 of the 70 countries does Britain sell arms or has a licence to sell arms. The defence entertainment allowance figures, obtained by Derek Fatchett, a Labour's defence spokesman, from a series of questions to the Ministry of Defence, are revealed

against the background of a comprehensive examination by the Treasury of Foreign Office spending, including diplomatic entertainment costs.

Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury minister charged with looking for spending cuts, is said to be about to launch an onslaught on the lifestyle of British diplomats. The Foreign Office spends about £130 million a year on entertaining and a source said yesterday: "Diplomatic staff always put emphasis on their representational role. We don't want mean-spirited diplomats. But they shouldn't be extravagant."

By far the largest defence attaché entertainment budget is in Washington, where eight attachés spent £224,000 last year. Other big spenders include a team of four attachés in Bonn (£27,319), and two in Rome (£27,816). Last week the Government

disclosed that the Prime Minister spent £33,000 entertaining in Downing Street in 1993-94.

In Stockholm, a wing commander and a lieutenant colonel spent £26,408. In dry Saudi Arabia, three attachés based in Riyadh spent £21,281. A naval captain in Bridgetown, Barbados, enjoys an entertainment allowance of £6,099. Our man in Santiago, Chile, also a naval captain, spent £8,455 on entertaining, and our sole representative in Accra, Ghana, spent £72,039.

Military attachés overseas are appointed by the Ministry of Defence in consultation with the Foreign Secretary, Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, described their function as "supporting the sale of British defence equipment and related services; aiding defence co-operation, including military assistance overseas, performing repre-

sentational and liaison duties and providing advice to the head of mission and diplomatic staff."

The Ministry of Defence recently carried out a study of the cost-effectiveness of its military attachés but has refused to divulge the findings. Mr Soames disclosed last week that the report, known as the Goddard Study, had cost £65,000.

Mr Fatchett yesterday said: "These figures for entertaining seem very high but I cannot really say whether they are justified or not. We simply don't know because the Government won't tell us."

The overall cost of our military attachés abroad to the taxpayer in 1994-95 is estimated by the MoD to be £25.7 million. That does not include accommodation costs, which are covered by the Foreign Office.

Embassy fury, page 8

Water firms 'kept back £200m meant for repairs'

BY LINDSAY COOK

THE privatised water companies have increased their profits by leaving unspent more than £200 million intended for renewing sewers, pipes and other installations, industry experts say.

Customers have been charged extra to pay for repairing the decaying sewers network but the unspent sum "found its way into company profit and loss accounts", according to BBC's *Panorama*.

The programme, to be shown tonight, also reveals that a paper profit of £4 million has been made on share options by 25 directors of water companies. It reports that David Cranston, chief executive of Northumbrian Water, the first privatised water company subject to a takeover bid, has made £413,000. Roderick Paul, chief executive of Severn Trent, has made £358,600 and Vic Cocker of Severn Trent has made £200,000.

Water companies have outperformed the stock market by about 50 per cent. Mike Matthews, a pollution consultant and former National Rivers Authority inspector, said: "The basic aim of the game, under the current rules, is to price high, build cheap and pocket the difference."

"The capital programme, the amount being spent on new works, is actually going down every year. And yet the turnover from customers' bills is actually going up. And it's not surprising in those circumstances that you see the

profitability of the companies increasing year upon year. If you delay your capital expenditure, you increase your profits within any given year."

Of the £773 million raised from customers' bills for infrastructure renewal, only £556 million has been spent. The other £217 million has been deferred.

Norman Walker of the sewer firm Insituform Ferramine says that the promise of investment in sewers had not materialised. "It was going to be boom time. For the next five years there was that much work in front of the water companies on the infrastructure network that the whole of the industry invested heavily, took on more people, invested on training, equipment, knowing that there was going to be no let-up in the five-year period."

"And we've now got companies going out of business or having equipment standing, and people having to be made redundant." He believed the cuts by water companies were "basically to enhance their balance sheets, their accounts, their profit figures, and to keep the share value up. It's a help in the City."

Colin Skellett, managing director of Wessex Water and a spokesman for the industry, said that at the time of privatisation money was earmarked for sewer renovation each year but other priorities had taken over. "We've been spending more money on dealing with pollution incidents, so there's been less in the first five years on sewer renovation. That's starting to shift now, and we'll see this spend on sewer renovation rise over the coming years."

Thames Water negotiated with Ofwat, the water regulator, to spend £2.1 billion over five years on infrastructure improvements and was permitted to increase bills by more than the rate of inflation. Since the negotiations the company has reduced the bill by £350 million.

The programme says that the water companies have made over £6.5 billion profits since privatisation.



A soldier demonstrates the art of teamwork during the Territorial Army Courage Trophy competition at Pirbright in Surrey. More than 200 men and women took part

Howard turns to public for verdict on law and order

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL HOWARD is planning a national tour to promote the Government's law and order Act and convince the public that the system now favours the victim rather than the criminal.

The Home Secretary is expected to visit towns and cities throughout England and Wales in the early summer after the final parts of the 172 section Criminal Justice and Public Order Act come into force.

Westminster sources confirmed that Mr Howard had been anxious to highlight the scope of the Act. The tour is intended to assist him to get across his message that the police and courts have been given powers to deal with criminals effectively. But his task will not be

made easier by remarks by Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, that the criminal justice system is on the brink of losing the confidence of the police and public. In an interview published yesterday, the Home Secretary conceded: "Yes, we do need to do more."

He is considering legislation in the next session of Parliament to change aspects of the law on evidence which police feel favour professional criminals. They say it is unfair that an accused person can keep all his cards close to his chest until the trial but the prosecution has to disclose most of its evidence.

Mr Howard will also highlight government plans to toughen community penalties to ensure that the public regards them as a punishment and not a soft option, as well as his drive to introduce a "carrot and stick" approach to discipline within jails.

His tour is likely to begin after he announces next month that most of the measures in the Act, including powers to impose conditions on suspects granted bail and a modification of the right to silence, have started.

He is likely to receive a boost with the publication of crime figures, due within the next few weeks, which Home Office sources suggest will show a further drop. Recorded crime in the 12 months to June 1994 fell by 5.5 per cent to 5.3 million, the largest fall for 40 years.

Major to emphasise Britain's global outlook

BY JAMES LANDALE
AND NICHOLAS WOOD

JOHN MAJOR will try to reassure Tory Euro-sceptics this week by urging Britain to raise its sights to the wider world and by emphasising the country's global interests.

In a key foreign policy speech on which he has been working for months, the Prime Minister will attempt to break out of the European straitjacket that has dominated the foreign policy debate in recent years. He will highlight Britain's strong economic links with countries outside the European Union and please the sceptics in his ranks by reasserting the primacy of the nation state.

In a remark underlining his hostility to a federal Europe, Mr Major will praise the nation state as an "anchor of stability" in the more volatile international climate stemming from the end of the Cold War. Although Mr Major's address to the "Britain in the World" conference in London on Wednesday is not intended as a statement of his European policy, it is expected to win plaudits from right-wingers who have been issuing warnings against identifying too closely with the EU.

Mr Major will point out that one third of the nation's output depends on trade and that the Britain is one of the largest recipients of foreign investment in the world, and one of the biggest investors overseas. He will signal a shift in the priorities of the Foreign Office by suggesting that it needs to make bigger efforts to promote British industry abroad. The Prime Minister will point to British membership of the UN Security Council, Nato and other alliances and its possession of nuclear weapons as evidence of its continuing world role.

The conference, sponsored by the Foreign Office and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, aims to reassess Britain's assets and see if they are being used to their full potential. Henry Kissinger, a former American Secretary of State, will outline how Britain is seen from the United States, particularly in light of recent tensions between London and Washington over Northern Ireland.

William Rees Mogg, page 18

NHS staff ignore appeal over pay

Nurses, midwives and other NHS workers ignored an appeal from the Government yesterday not to resort to industrial action over pay. They plan to go ahead with demonstrations this week. Organisers hope the public will back their call for an improvement to a 1 per cent across-the-board rise, with up to a further 2 per cent to be negotiated locally.

The Royal College of Nursing is poised to end its 80-year-old no-strike policy in protest at the pay award. The college's council is likely to back a change that would allow limited industrial action. The college's 300,000 members are to be balloted next month. The Government will come under further pressure over pay in the Commons on Wednesday when Labour challenges the Treasury's refusal to fully fund the 2.7 per cent teachers' pay award.

Sinn Fein seeks talks

Martin McGuinness yesterday warned the Government to avoid complacency over the Northern Ireland peace process as he renewed his demand for multi-party talks. Mr McGuinness, who has been leading the Sinn Fein delegation in exploratory talks with civil servants, forecast on BBC's *On the Record* that he would meet a Government minister within a week, adding: "Many people will be disappointed if that does not take place."

Humphreys 'was wrong'

BBC chiefs gave a little ground yesterday in the face of an attack on the corporation's impartiality by Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Chief Secretary. Tony Hall, managing director of BBC news and current affairs, said John Humphreys, the *Today* presenter, should have pulled out of chairing a debate on education cuts when it became apparent that the Conservatives were not going to take part but he defended Mr Humphreys as "a fine journalist".

New cancer unit closes

A new cancer unit has been closed three months after it opened because of a shortage of nurses. The 19-bed ward in the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham, cost £500,000 to equip and was the first stage of the new £9 million South Birmingham Oncology Centre. Hospital managers said the ward had been closed because of staff sickness and would reopen next month. A spokesman said: "We are training more nurses to get it open as soon as possible."

Record number pay tax

The number of taxpayers will be at an all-time high of 26.2 million from next month, according to Treasury figures. Labour blamed the increase — 500,000 from last April and 800,000 from the last election — on the cut in the married couple's allowance and the freezing of personal allowances over the past two years. However, the Government said that economic growth, and the resulting increase in the workforce, was mainly responsible.

Hindley suspects mole

The Moors murderer Myra Hindley has requested a transfer to a top security prison from her "soft" women-only jail following a series of information leaks, her solicitor claims. Andrew McCooey said that ever since Hindley arrived at Cookham Wood in Kent in 1983, a "mole" at the prison had been leaking stories about her to the press. He said: "She now hopes that as she serves her life sentence at Durham she may be left alone."

Trauma cases open

A High Court judge today begins hearing four test cases brought by South Yorkshire police officers against their chief constable for trauma they claim to have suffered during the 1989 Hillsborough stadium football disaster. The hearing will determine if claims from 19 other officers should go ahead. Richard Wells, the South Yorkshire Chief Constable, Sheffield Wednesday, owners of the ground, and its engineers, Eastwood and Partners, deny liability.

Tributes to trainer

Show-jumpers paid tribute yesterday to Jane Taylor, one of the sport's leading trainers, who died after a riding accident. Mrs Taylor, 57, was crushed after an inexperienced mare fell at a fence near her stables at Bourton-on-the-Hill, Gloucestershire. Her husband, Christopher, said: "Her death has devastated everyone. It is a mystery what happened." Carl Hester, the Olympic dressage competitor, said: "It is impossible to imagine life without her."

Lottery rolls to £17m

This week's National Lottery jackpot will be an estimated £17 million as the game enters another roll-over week. There were no winners of last week's jackpot of just over £10 million but eight people will collect nearly £391,000 for matching five numbers plus the bonus ball. Camelot, the lottery organiser, said that the main game had been unaffected by the introduction last week of Instant scratchcards. Lottery numbers, page 22

Bafta funeral for Four Weddings

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH

BRITAIN'S biggest-ever box office hit, *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, failed to pick up a single Bafta award last night when the trophies for production were handed out in Glasgow. The film, which grossed £168 million worldwide, was nominated in three categories. Instead, the film production awards were dominated by three films: *Interview with the Vampire*, *The Adventures of Priscilla Queen of the Desert* and *Speed*, each of which won two awards.

Four Weddings has been nominated for

seven awards in the performance categories which will be announced next month. The television awards were dominated by the BBC, which picked up eight awards, but ITV bagged a number of the most prestigious trophies. Cilla Black won the Low Grade award for the most significant and popular programme on British television with her LWT programme *Blind Date* which has been running continuously on ITV for ten years.

Black, the first recipient of this award, collected it at the King's Theatre in Glasgow before an audience which included The Princess Royal, Robbie

Coltrane and Catherine Zeta Jones. The Dennis Potter award for writing went to Jimmy McGovern who wrote the controversial ITV series *Cracker*. The Richard Dimbleby award for the most important contribution in factual television went to the BBC's Desmond Lynam.

ITN deserved a special award in recognition of its 40th anniversary as the main news provider for British commercial television and Edward Mirzoeff, who made the acclaimed documentary about the Queen, *Elizabeth R*, picked up the Alan Clark award for outstanding creative contribution to television.

Major ready to replace Hanley

Continued from page 1
have indicated that they doubt that power could be handed over without a contest. Mr Major's backers insisted that he would fight "cat and dog" any move to unseat him.

Mr Hanley's reputation has been undone by a string of gaffes, most recently the sweeping observation that "Labour local government tends to be corrupt", from which Mr Major and other ministers have distanced

themselves. Senior figures fear that under the stresses of a general election campaign, he would make too many mistakes and prove a serious liability.

Among those being tipped to take over are Tom King, the former Defence Secretary, and John MacGregor, the former Transport Secretary. They are both seen as the "safe pair of hands" the Prime Minister would want at Central Office. From the current Cabinet,

only Mr Hunt is thought to be keen to stake his political future on taking over the Herculean task of reviving the party's fortunes.

During his year at Central Office, Mr Hanley has been plagued by the Tories' continuing shortage of money and has been forced to make scores of staff redundant. Central Office insiders say he is also poor at delegating and that his tendency to make gaffes stems from his reluctance to accept

detailed briefings before making media appearances.

The MORI survey, carried out on Friday, found that Labour's lead would be slightly bigger if Mr Clarke or Mr Portillo were leader. Voters saw Mr Heseltine and Mr Major as equally able to lead the Tories into the next election, while Tory supporters gave Mr Major a 20-point lead over Mr Heseltine.

Peter Riddell, page 18

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Intimate letters to soldier spell out the life and lusts of Catherine the Great

Words of love seal steamy reputation of Russian empress

BY DALYA ALBERGE
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TEN intimate letters written by Catherine the Great to one of her many lovers have appeared on the market more than a century after historians assumed they had been lost.

The letters confirm Catherine's reputation for having a voracious sexual appetite. In one billet-doux, she mentions "a little scrap of snipped-off underwear" which, it is assumed, she enclosed as a souvenir of an assignation. Catherine II, (1729-96), arguably the greatest woman ruler in history, is famous for having had dozens of lovers.

Sophie Dupré, a dealer in manuscripts and letters, who acquired the collection from a private source on the Continent, said nothing like these letters had been offered on the market this century.

Professor John T. Alexander, whose book on the Russian Empress was published by Oxford University Press in 1989, described the find as "very exciting". The letters, he added, confirmed Catherine's reputation.

They have surfaced just as film-makers have finished an \$11 million television film on



Catherine the Great

Catherine the Great with Catherine Zeta Jones in the title role. An impressive line-up includes Jeanne Moreau (who played the Empress in the 1968 film, *The Great Catherine*), Omar Sharif, Ian Richardson and Brian Blessed. Mark and Paul McGann will play two of her most romantic attachments, the fiery Orlov and Potemkin. The film comes at a time of intense Russian interest in Catherine. The Soviet regime largely ignored or scorned Catherine, said Professor Alexander, "apparently because

of her foreign background" — she was born a minor German princess — and her reputation. Such is her new popularity that the Chekhov Theatre, Moscow, staged a play last year based on her life, with the opera singer Galina Vishnevskaya in the title role.

Catherine was betrothed at the age of 15 to the Grand Duke Peter of Russia. Soon after their marriage, she became discontented with her husband, who has been described by historians as subnormal in physique and in mind. The couple were soon quarrelling and Catherine started to have affairs. Some 18 years later, with the aid of one of her lovers who persuaded the guards to undertake a coup d'état, she overthrew her husband and installed herself on the throne.

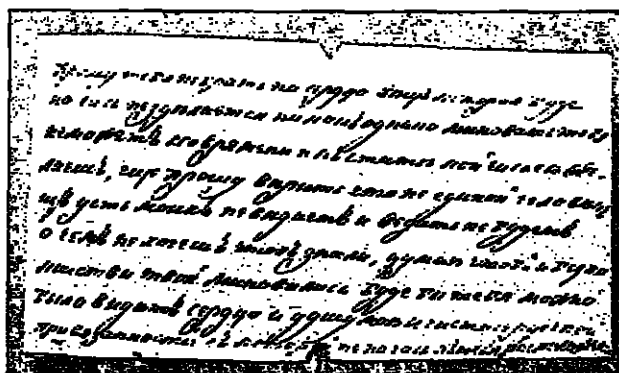
She proved an enlightened ruler who made sweeping reforms, striving to make Russian society as cultivated as French and German. She promoted a love of French culture, and introduced measures to improve education and health care for the poor. She died of apoplexy in 1796.

The letters were written between June 1778 and October 1779 to Ivan Nikolaevich Rimsky-Korsakov, a captain of the palace guards. The Empress, who made no secret of her affections for him, called him: "Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, whom every sculptor should sculpt, every painter should paint, and every poet should sing". In some letters she talked of how the day dragged when she could not see him. In others, she complained of loneliness.

Rimsky-Korsakov kept the letters in an envelope marked "My Precious Souvenir". At the time of their affair he was 34 and famously handsome — "God's best creation", she called him. Catherine, who reigned as absolute monarch for 34 years, was in her 50s and, unlike Ms Zeta-Jones, was extremely plain. "Her charm was not down to her looks or youth," said Professor Alexander, "but position and power. Power was a strong aphrodisiac." She also showered her lovers with gifts and paid them off handsomely when the affair ended, although that may have been to keep them quiet.

Historians are unsure exactly how many lovers Catherine had. Professor Alexander said: "They talk about dozens, scores." Such was her lust for men as well as power that, while other monarchs had food-tasters for their protection, she is said to have had sex-tasters, making her ladies-in-waiting try out potential lovers first. It was when one of those tasters went beyond the call of duty, and was caught by Catherine with the man to whom these letters were written, that the affair ended.

The letters are to be offered for £38,000 at the 36th Antiquarian Book Fair, which takes place at Grosvenor House, London, from June 29 to July 1.



Part of one of the empress's long-lost love letters

'A little scrap of underwear...'

FROM DALYA ALBERGE

CATHERINE the Great's love affair with Ivan Nikolaevich Rimsky-Korsakov, a captain of the palace guards, lasted from June 1778 to October 1779. She wrote to him:

"I still beg you to believe that not a single person knows from my lips — nor will they ever know — what you do not wish them to know."

"I am writing this solely to inform myself about your health. We too had to drag through the entire day yesterday, and in the evening, after nine. I drove with two others along the St Petersburg road on the off-chance of meeting someone. Not a single minute do you depart from my thoughts. When shall we see you?"

"All night long my head ached, now I sleep all the time. It seems better if I do not get up from bed so that I continue to sweat. Farewell. God be with you. The weather is not

the best, so don't catch cold. "I do not wish to describe to you the utter tedium here, so that I should not cause you any tedium. I search everywhere, but nowhere can I find the one who does not depart from my thoughts for a single minute."

"I have an enormous impatience to see God's best creation. I have already pined for you for more than a day. I drove out today in the hope of coming across you. If you do not return soon, I shall run off from here and dash around the whole city to search for you."

"My head aches, not from you, my sweetest, but from the bad weather. I am going to get dressed now. God be with you. Be healthy and merry, and we shall feel better the sooner."

"My best piece of amusement today, and the dearest one to me, is a little scrap of snipped off underwear..."

The 'ordinary' exile with seven Oscar nominations

BY GILES WHITTELL
IN LOS ANGELES
AND DALYA ALBERGE

A BRITISH actress who turned her back on repertory theatre to become a Hollywood film producer will discover tonight whether her film, which has received seven nominations, has won an Oscar. Niki Marvin is sole producer of *The Shawshank Redemption*, the critically acclaimed account of two prisoners coming to terms with decades behind bars.

The film, which stars Tim Robbins and Morgan Freeman, is nominated for best picture, adapted screenplay, actor, cinematography, editing, music and sound.

When she read the original story by Stephen King, Ms Marvin was so impressed that she acquired the film rights. "We had every actor in Hollywood wanting to be in it," she said yesterday.

She has been in Hollywood since the 1970s and is anticipating the awards ceremony with some anxiety. She has chosen to wear a 1940s halterneck from an antique-clothes boutique.

"I'm a pretty ordinary person," said Ms Marvin, 43, who once worked in rep at



Niki Marvin

Exeter. "Dressing up is a big deal for me."

When the 67th Academy Awards gets under way tonight, only an upset of epic proportions will prevent *Forrest Gump*, the strange story of a simpleton who becomes a shrimp-fishing millionaire, from winning a brace of Oscars.

Despite a fierce debate about its significance, the film and its star, Tom Hanks, are overwhelming favourites for the coveted best picture and best actor statuettes, while strong support for *Pulp Fiction* makes an all-

American sweep likely in the major categories.

British hopes of acting awards are distant at best: Nigel Hawthorne's acclaimed performance as the deranged monarch in *The Madness of King George* was the choice of a mere 2 per cent of American filmgoers in a weekend CNN/Gallup poll likely to be reflected by the academy's traditionally conservative voters.

The same poll gave Miranda Richardson, who plays the wife of the poet T.S. Eliot in *Tom and Viv*, an outside 1 per cent chance of winning best actress. Hanks, voted best actor last year for his role in *Philadelphia*, was tipped by 53 per cent of Americans for a repeat.

Jodie Foster will arrive at The Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles as favourite for best actress for her performance in *Nell*. Jessica Lange is considered a contender for her part as a manic depressive army wife in *Blue Sky*.

The evening's tensest moments are expected in the directing category, a head-to-head contest between Robert Zemeckis and Quentin Tarantino, directors of *Forrest Gump* and *Pulp Fiction* respectively.



Catherine Zeta Jones in the film mini-series based on the life of the empress

Judge must say sorry for slur on solicitors

BY FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A CIRCUIT judge is to make a formal apology in open court this week after saying that a defendant did not "need to stoop so low" as to employ the services of a solicitor-advocate rather than a barrister.

The remark by Judge Bentley, QC, at Sheffield Crown Court has infuriated solicitors and barristers, who say that it shows the hostility among some judges to solicitors who now have the right to take cases in Crown Court.

Judith Naylor, 40, the solicitor in court when the judge made his remark, was not only an experienced criminal practitioner of some ten years, but a deputy coroner and chairman of the Criminal Law Solicitors' Association.

The incident occurred earlier this month when an unrepresented defendant appeared before the court, having sacked his counsel. The judge sought to appoint the other counsel in the case, who declined on grounds of conflict of interest, as he was representing the co-accused.

It was then pointed out to the judge that there was a solicitor-advocate in court, to which he replied: "We don't need to stoop that low, do we?" Instead of appointing Ms Naylor, one of the first solicitors to be granted the right to take cases in the higher courts in the wake of the Bar's monopoly being abolished, Judge Bentley appointed a young barrister to take the case. "I

don't know whether he meant me in particular or solicitor-advocates in general," Ms Naylor said.

"I was acutely embarrassed, not just for me but for solicitor-advocates generally. So I decided I couldn't let it go. It wasn't as if I was even before the judge, in a case, it was just a gratuitous, offensive comment."

She raised the matter with the presiding judge on the circuit and was offered either a written apology or one in open court. "I thought about it very carefully and decided that if I had done wrong, that was what I would want to do to put matters right," she said.

It was important, she said, because she had always encouraged solicitors to apply for rights of audience in the higher courts and if she let it go, people would question whether it was "all worth it".

Measures to stop restrictive foreign privacy laws being used to stifle the British press will be put forward in the Lords today. Lord Lester of Herne Hill, QC, is seeking an amendment to a controversial Government bill which will allow people to sue in English courts, even where no tort, or civil wrong, has been committed under English law.

The Government has already exempted defamation from its proposals so that foreign libel laws cannot be used in our courts. But privacy has not so far been exempt.



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Technology blamed as minister shelves motorway toll plan

By James Landale, Political Reporter

THE prospect of motorway tolls for British drivers faded yesterday when the Government gave its strongest signal yet that the controversial proposals would be scrapped.

In the first public acknowledgement by Dr Brian Mawhinney that his department was backing away from the plans, the Transport Secretary said that motorway tolls would be introduced only "some way in the future, if at all". Tolls for motorways and major trunk roads were touted in 1993 by John MacGregor, Dr Mawhinney's predecessor and a keen supporter of the practice. He committed the Transport Department to introducing plans by 1998 aimed at easing congestion and raising £700 million a year for new roads.

The Government has always opposed continental-style "toll plazas" — where motorists are forced to stop — because of the disruption to traffic. It favoured instead

using microwave technology to dock payment points from rechargeable smart cards at motorway checkpoints. However, the Government insists that the technology is as yet unworkable and that the problem of drivers using side roads to avoid the checks is unresolved.

"The position was set out by my predecessor that there would be value in putting in motorway tolls and using the money to benefit and enhance the motorway system," Dr Mawhinney said on ITV's *Jonathan Dimbleby* programme. "But it was subject even then to a number of caveats: that there should not be any diversion to other roads; that the technology should be there and reliable and we haven't met that point yet, and then we need new legislation. We are not in a position to make judgments because we don't have the technology."

Transport officials said yes-

terday that tests in Germany showed that the new technology had "more difficulties than the manufacturers would have us believe". They added that trials in Britain of the technology, which were intended to begin early this year, had been postponed indefinitely.

The news that tolling is likely to be scrapped comes days before the Government is due to announce plans to raise extra cash for transport policies by extending car tax to include off-road vehicles. Cars will be taxed by possession instead of use in an attempt to cut the £160 million lost to the Treasury each year through car tax evasion.

However, Dr Mawhinney is expected to include special exemptions for owners of classic and vintage cars so that car museums avoid huge tax bills. "It's not intended to discriminate against honest motorists," a Transport Department spokesman said.



Sophie Rhys Jones at the appeal launch yesterday



Peter Brown with his 22-month-old triplets Jack, George and Rosie

Early arrivals seek better start

WHEN Hollie Neal was born two months prematurely in 1988, she weighed less than two bags of sugar, had underdeveloped lungs and heart and was given only a 50 per cent chance of survival.

Yesterday she was one of 40 premature children who helped to launch National Mother and Baby Week at The Dorchester in London. Her mother Karen Neal, from Coventry, had developed toxemia during preg-

nancy and required an emergency Caesarean operation. Hollie, who is six, survived only after being rushed from a hospital in Leamington Spa to a unit at Walsgrave Hospital, Coventry.

The launch, which was organised with the help of Sophie Rhys Jones, a friend of Prince Edward, marks an appeal for £1 million by the charity Baby Lifetime, whose founder Judy Ledger lost three babies in premature

births in under two years. The charity supplies urgently needed equipment for Britain's 265 maternity hospitals.

Also at the launch were George, Jack and Rosie Brown, 22-month-old triplets of Greenwich, southeast London. When they were born nine weeks prematurely the hospital did not have enough ventilators and they had to be rushed to a second one.

Spanish accused of lying about trawler capacity

By Michael Hornsby, Agriculture Correspondent

THE Government is to press Brussels to investigate claims that Spanish trawlermen are understating the power of the engines on their vessels to disguise fish-catching capacity.

Engine sizes reported to the Spanish authorities by their fishermen are alleged in many cases to be less than those recorded by the builders of the boats in Lloyd's Register of Shipping, which contains data on every vessel in the world.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Agriculture said: "If the Spanish are misdeclaring their engine size, it would be of great concern. Anybody who has evidence that this is happening is urged to pass it to us so that we can take the matter up with the European Commission."

Accurate recording of engine sizes is crucial for the fair enforcement of a European Union de-commissioning programme that requires all member states to reduce fleet capacity to allow depleted fish stocks to recover.

Over the period 1993-96, member states are being asked to cut fleet tonnage by an average of 8 per cent and engine power by an average of 11 per cent, the severity of the cutback varying according to the degree of each state's compliance with previous de-commissioning schemes. Britain is required to make a cut of

19 per cent, one of the highest.

Dozens of vessels have apparently been registered in Spain with incorrect engine sizes, according to newspaper reports. Two of the most glaring examples cited are the trawlers *Andra Maiba* and *Arrebinagako Mikel Deuna*, said by their owners to have 597 and 590-horsepower engines. Lloyd's records them as having 1,000 hp units.

One Spanish freezer trawler, the *Baffin Bay*, registered under a British flag last month, was said to be recorded in the British Registry of Shipping and Seamen, a government agency, as having a 1,997 hp engine. Lloyd's credits the vessel with 3,300 hp.

Mike Townsend, chief executive of the Cornish Fish Producers' Organisation, said: "Knowing what we do of Spanish methods, it would not surprise me at all. By combining fewer boats and lower tonnage with greater engine horsepower, you can seem to be reducing fleet size while actually catching even more fish than before."

More powerful engines enable a smaller boat to trawl with larger nets, to tow the nets faster and to reduce the time spent sailing to and from fishing grounds. With powerful engines, vessels can more easily drag the small-mesh nets that catch more fish.



Lt Col Keyes and his target, Field Marshal Rommel

Museum bids to bring VC home

By John Young

THE Imperial War Museum will bid for one of the most famous Victoria Crosses of the Second World War when it is auctioned by Spink & Son in London tomorrow.

The medal was awarded to Lieutenant Colonel Geoffrey Keyes, who died leading an attempt to capture Erwin Rommel on the eve of the battle of El Alamein in November 1941. Sold to an American collector eight years ago, it has attracted intense interest and could fetch up to £100,000.

The National Heritage Memorial Fund has promised £17,000 but Mrs Peter William-Powlett, Lt Col Keyes's sister, said yesterday that it would be a struggle to raise so large a sum.

Geoffrey Keyes was 24 when he won approval for a plan to attack and destroy the German headquarters in the

village of Sidi Rafa, 250 miles behind enemy lines in Libya. Tragically for the raiding party of 11th Scottish Commando, British Intelligence reports on Rommel's movements did not reach them in time, and on the night of November 17 Rommel was in Athens.

Keyes led his men in a frontal assault on Rommel's villa but was mortally wounded as he attempted to storm a room on the ground floor and died within minutes.

Rommel ordered that Keyes's body be laid before the altar of a church beside the bodies of the four German officers he had killed, and that he should be accorded a full military funeral.

A Dutch museum has paid £8,970 for the animals' VC won by a Welsh sheepdog called Ricky for bravery in wartime Holland.

ELVIS LIVES,
CONFIRMS
METER READER,
BUT
WHEREABOUTS
REMAIN
A SECRET.

'The wrench will be painful, my family and their memories are in this terraced house'

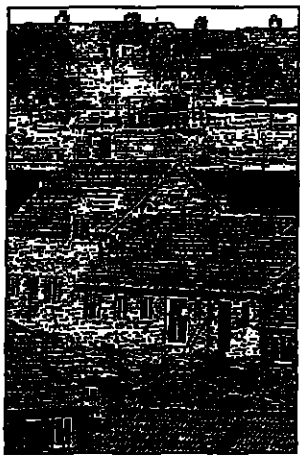
Pit village prepares to move to a new life across the road

By KATE ALDERSON

FOUR HUNDRED residents of the pit village of Arkwright will pack their bags in a few weeks' time, cross the road and settle into the new village of Arkwright — the last purpose-built colliery settlement in the country.

Not surprisingly, most of the villagers relish the move. They will be leaving Victorian terraced houses worth £18,000 for fully-fitted, £50,000 semi or bungalows 500 yards away. Their old surroundings are being moved with them: from the primary school to the miners' welfare club, the fish and chip shop to the bus stop, the whole village is being replicated in detail at a cost of £15 million.

The residents of Arkwright, five miles from Chesterfield in Derbyshire, have also been able to choose — and reject — their neighbours. The first families will move in May and



The two Arkwrights

everyone will be in by Christmas. They talk of little else but the "flitting date", although almost 100 years after William Arkwright built the village to house the miners and their families who worked at the colliery he part-owned, their descendants cannot mask the

sadness at leaving the homes of their fathers, grandfathers and great-grandfathers.

The uprooting of the old village, five streets of dark, crumbling houses to 174 pristine new Wimpey homes arranged in neat crescents and cul-de-sacs, appears to have been prompted by the threat of methane gas.

When the gas was first discovered beneath the houses shortly after the pit closed five years ago, British Coal, while refusing to accept responsibility for the leak, eventually came up with the scheme to relocate the complete village. Today the whole area is owned by R.J. Budge Mining Ltd, which is working an open-cast mine behind the village. Few locals work at the mine, which requires skills they do not possess.

Sam and Kath Swain were not keen to move when the scheme was proposed five years ago and did not believe it



Jeetinder Greenall, a single mother, with Patrick and Bernadette: "I will have a shower for the first time"

would ever happen. Mr Swain, 61, a retired miner, had been born in the house his parents gave to him and was unsure that the tight-knit community could be transplanted to modern homes.

He was convinced there was "nowt wrong" with his current

house, but is now excited about the move. His wife Kath, 63, who is disabled by arthritis, is keen to move to their three-bedroom bungalow.

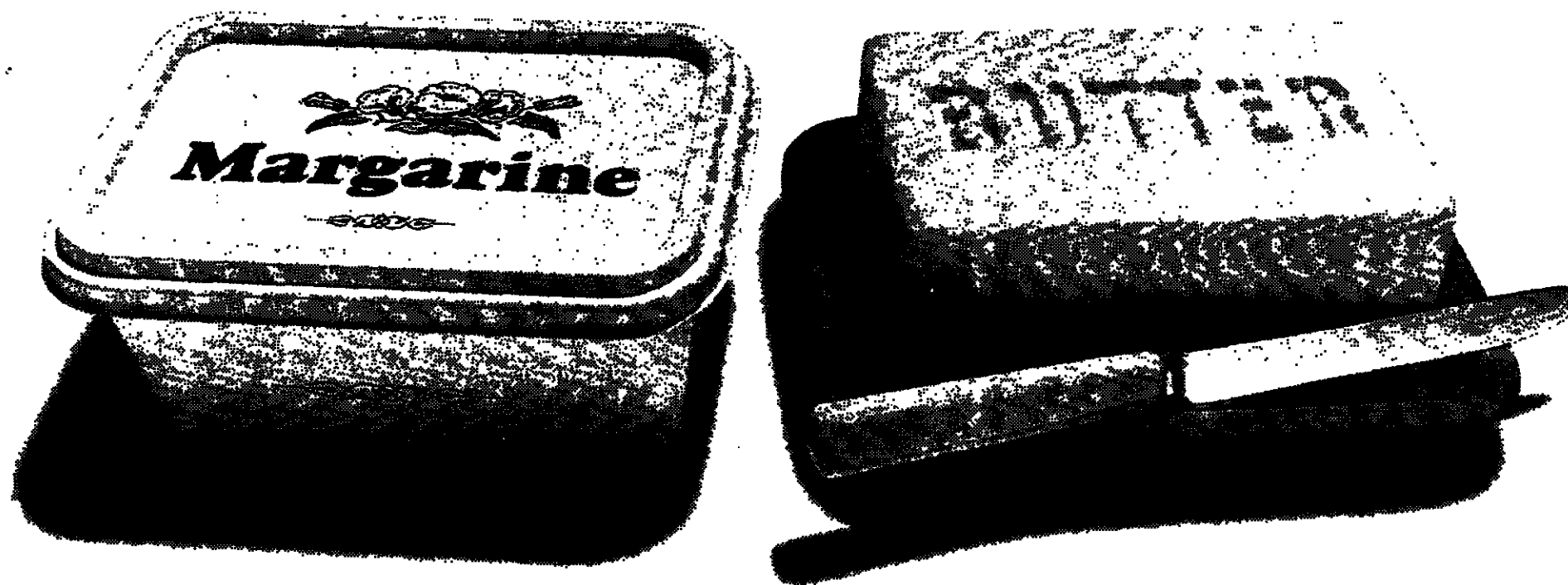
"I'm looking forward to the move. Everyone is," Mr Swain said. "The wrench will be

painful, my family and their memories are in this house, but we will have better facilities than we ever had. It will be strange not living in a terrace."

For Jeetinder Greenall, a single mother of two who has lived in the village for 14 years,

the move is a chance to enhance her quality of life dramatically. "I would never be able to afford such a house," she said. "I will have a shower for the first time, a fitted kitchen and a proper garden. I can't wait for the move. It's all we talk about."

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Anglican Orthodox group gives up struggle

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A SOCIETY set up to promote Orthodoxy among Anglicans is to close because most of its activists have left or are planning to leave the Church of England.

The Anglo-Orthodox Society was set up in 1982 to emphasise beliefs and traditions that developed in the first 1,000 years of the Church independently of Roman Catholicism, and which led to the formation of the ancient Orthodox churches of the East. The society is to be wound up "because of the doubts of many whether Orthodoxy can still be sought within the Church of England", the last edition of *Anglo-Orthodoxy* says.

The demise of the society, which began with about only 100 members, is an indication of the confusion in the ranks of traditionalist Anglicans in the wake of the ordinations last year of more than 1,000 women priests.

The society was set up because its founder members believed it was more effective to work from within the Church of England. But the active members became convinced that their future lay within an existing Orthodox church, such as the British Orthodox, the Alexandrian Coptic or the Antiochian church.

The society's president, the Right Rev Paul Burrough, former assistant bishop in the Peterborough diocese, says in the journal that *Orthodoxy* faith in the Church of England has been challenged, not only by women priests, but by the Porvoo declaration, under which new links are being forged with the Nordic and Balkan Lutheran churches.

He says: "It is not difficult to see why some Anglicans, chiefly clergy, have departed to the Roman Catholic or Eastern Orthodox churches, or to some form of 'continuing Anglican' church."

The Very Rev Alistair Haig, Dean of Bocking, Essex, says: "Sadly, many, though not all, of our activists have felt that they could no longer fight the battle for Orthodoxy within the ranks of the Church of England, and have either left already or plan to do so."

A Church of England spokesman said: "I won't miss them. The Church might. Obviously it will be a shame if it is the end of some positive link with Eastern Orthodoxy."

The British Orthodox Church, which uses the Liturgy of St James, is growing steadily. The other two options for those traditionalists not converting to Roman Catholicism are the Traditional Church of England and the Anglican Catholic Church.



The endangered mink

European mink faces extinction

By NICK NUTTALL

AN ATTEMPT to save the European mink from extinction is being launched by British scientists. They hope to discover why the creatures, which differ from the American mink, have declined so rapidly in parts of the former Soviet Union.

Most now exist only in Belarusia, Russia and Estonia. Findings from the project, which is backed by the Department of the Environment's Darwin Initiative, will aid a captive breeding programme at Tallinn Zoo in Estonia.

Dr Hans Kruuk, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Banchory, near Aberdeen, said that the decline could be caused by pollution and competition for food and habitat with the American mink, which now breeds in the wild.

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Tomorrow

GPs told to check vaccines after mass diphtheria overdose

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR health officials warned family doctors yesterday that giving the wrong dose of diphtheria vaccine to schoolchildren could kill.

The warning comes after 250 children at two schools in the West Country suffered severe reactions after receiving an overdose of the vaccine last week. The vaccine was given as part of a routine immunisation programme for 14 and 15-year-old pupils at Devizes School and George Ward School in Melksham, Wiltshire. Many fell ill with fever, swollen arms and hallucinations.

Bath and West Community NHS Trust admitted that the children should have received booster injections of the vaccine but were instead given a five times stronger dose, intended for babies. The trust has launched an inquiry into how the mistake occurred.

All babies in Britain are offered immunisation against diphtheria but health authorities

are giving booster doses to increasing numbers of schoolchildren because of fears about the rise of the disease in Eastern Europe.

The diphtheria toxoid given to babies creates such a strong immune response that giving the same high dose of toxoid years later risks provoking a severe reaction. Immunisation experts are concerned that GPs are unaware of the importance of giving the correct dose.

Dr Martin Schweiger, consultant in community medicine in Leeds, said: "There is a definite risk of anaphylactic shock, causing collapse, which can be fatal. It is quite clear there have been tragedies in the past." He said there was confusion among family doctors about whether they could use the infant version of the vaccine on schoolchildren.

"Practice nurses have asked us if it is all right to use and said GPs had told them it was not a problem. It appears

there are some GPs who have only got half the message about diphtheria. By having two strengths of vaccine it is easy to pick up the wrong one. We are asking them to read the label and make sure they have got the right one."

Dr Nigel Higgs, a Sussex GP and expert in immunisation, said the diphtheria vaccination programme had lacked proper publicity. "There is a very high chance of confusion. Colleagues in my own practice weren't aware which jab to use. The health department should have made it clear that the infant version should not be used."

A spokesman for the health department said a letter would be sent to GPs shortly warning them that the two doses were not interchangeable. It will advise GPs where booster doses are unavailable, to use one fifth of the infant dose. The spokesman denied there was a shortage of booster doses for adolescents.



Motorcycle police shadow the Chiddingfold, Leconfield and Cowdray Hunt, at Upperton, West Sussex. The trial bikes have been diverted from patrols on the South Downs to prevent clashes between hunt saboteurs and supporters

A-level economics falls from favour

By BEN PRESTON

SIXTH-formers are deserting economics, one of the most popular courses of the 1980s, because they find it dull, difficult and too theoretical.

A-level entries in the subject are expected to fall this summer to their lowest since the 1970s. Many young people are switching to business studies, which they regard as more relevant.

Economics captured the imagination during the 1980s but has been in a downward spiral since the turn of the decade. About 32,000 sat the A-level examination last summer, almost a third less than in 1989. In contrast, the number of sixth-formers taking business studies at A-level has risen from about 10,000 in 1989 to 27,000 last year. Its popularity is expected to overtake economics this summer.

Richard Young, of the Economics and Business Education Association, said the change reflected public loss of faith at the failure of professional economists and politicians to explain the recession.

Britons take their bucket and spade to warmer climes

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE traditional British family holiday is continuing its decline. Just over half the 58 million holidays taken last year were spent in Britain, compared with nearly 70 per cent ten years ago. 83 per cent in 1975, 86 per cent in 1985, and 93 per cent in 1955.

The British Tourist Authority (BTA) is pushing for a range of government actions to reverse the trend. Adele Biss, chairman of the BTA and the English Tourist Board (ETB), said: "The ETB will continue to press for a restoration of its funds, which have been cut by more than a third over the last three years. We are also embarking on a programme to strengthen accommodation inspection and evaluating whether more can be done to make booking UK holidays simpler."

The BTA and hoteliers were also seeking a review of VAT rates for hotels, which were putting them at a disadvantage compared with overseas rivals, and for more flexibility to step up the promotion of short breaks and off-season holidays across Britain.

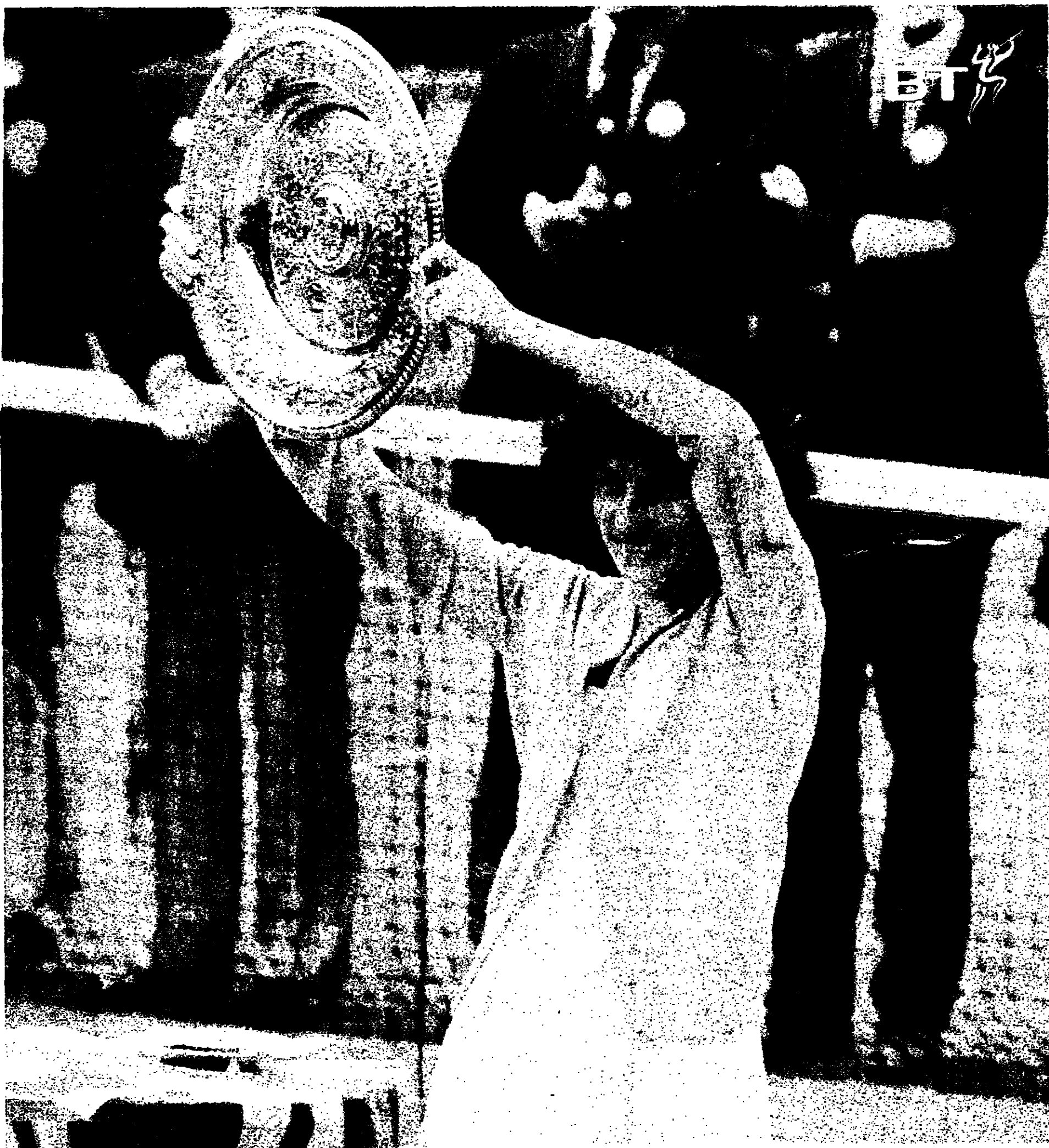
Miss Biss said Britain was one of the most popular

tourism destinations for people from abroad, but "we need to ensure that it continues to be so for our own citizens as well".

The BTA survey, which focuses on breaks at home and abroad of four nights or more, showed that of the 58 million holidays taken by the British last year, 31.5 million were taken in Britain and 26.5 million overseas. If the trend continues, more people will take a holiday abroad than at home by the end of the decade.

Overall expenditure on long holidays went up last year by 10 per cent to £19,760 million. But of that only 1 per cent more was spent in Britain, while the amount spent on foreign holidays went up by 13 per cent. The average sum spent on a British holiday was £146 while £564 was spent on a foreign holiday.

Half of all holidays taken in Britain last year were spent at the seaside, and the West Country remained the most popular destination, attracting 23 per cent of all holidaymakers. More people now prefer to fend for themselves, with 51 per cent of holidaymakers choosing self-catering accommodation.



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THE TIMES Don't forget your passport ... you could be in Andalusia soon



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Tomorrow: win a short break in Istanbul

Balladur draws strength from latest poll position

FROM CHARLES BREMNER
IN PARIS

AS FRANCE'S presidential race enters the final straight, a twitch in the opinion polls has offered a glimmer of hope to the beleaguered Edouard Balladur and alerted the campaign team of Jacques Chirac, the Gaullist favourite, to the dangers of arrogance.

For the first time since M Chirac staged his astonishing comeback last month, opinion polls have shown his lead diminish slightly, while the falling support for the Gaullist Prime Minister, has halted about five percentage points behind the front-runner. Four weeks before the first-round vote, Lionel Jospin, the Socialist candidate, has fallen behind the Gaullist pair.

Word that his position had steadied gave a little extra fire to M Balladur, 65, at the weekend as he tried to don a more pugnacious and proletarian guise, making a rock star's appearance at a noisy rally of 15,000 supporters at Le Bourget, in the Paris suburbs. There, he cast himself as an outsider new to politics, a man who faced his first election in

■ With support for Jacques Chirac, his main Gaullist rival, beginning to wane, the Prime Minister is renewing his efforts as the presidential race enters the final straight

1986. He denounced M Chirac as a political dinosaur and a demagogue who was promising the moon in order to fulfil his lifetime ambition of the presidency. "There is too much talk of the past and men of the past in this campaign,"



Jospin: destined for early exit from race

he said with a nod to M Chirac's long career as a two-times presidential loser.

One of the oddest sights of the campaign was that of the fastidious M Balladur, a career civil service mandarin, being hoisted onto a table with Marie-Josée, his wife, to acknowledge the cheers of a crowd yelling "Allez Doudou, allez-y", a common nickname that caused almost as much mirth as his foray into hitchhiking at the weekend. When his helicopter was forced by fog to land in a field near Arles, M Balladur asked a passing motorist for a lift. It did not help his image that the car was a Mercedes driven by a visibly opulent woman.

The polling blip has prompted M Chirac, 62, to counsel extreme caution among his lieutenants. The surge of "Chiracomania" that has swept the political classes

this month has prompted premature euphoria, notably by Alain Juppé, 49, the Foreign Minister and interim Gaullist leader. Universally assumed to be M Chirac's choice as Prime Minister, M Juppé has been musing publicly on the new regime. The Chirac camp, he said at the weekend, would be magnanimous in victory towards those who threw in their lot with M Balladur. "We must not bear grudges. But it will be necessary to remember a little to know who you can trust."

The point is not lost on the chastened Gaullists of the Balladur camp, who acknowledge that the campaign crash of their man was in large part triggered by the impression that he considered the election a mere formality on his pre-ordained path to the presidency. Clutching for every life-jacket, as M Juppé depicted them, the Prime Minister's team is taking encouragement from an Ipsos poll at the weekend which showed that only 29 per cent of the public positively wants M Chirac to be elected. Although the arithmetic of the run-off vote, due on May 7, means M



Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister and presidential candidate, is greeted by supporters, some dressed in traditional costume and playing instruments, during a weekend visit to Maillane, in the Camargue

Chirac is still likely to triumph, the poll was a reminder that there is still room for failure.

With M Jospin's candidature apparently destined for elimination in the first round along with the squad of second-tier candidates, the Gaull-

ist strategists are preparing their end-game. After an appalling start to his campaign, M Balladur's only chance is said to be to convince the French that he has a vision for change and that he loves them, as one expert put it. After succeeding at both of

these essentials, M Chirac, a man with an old reputation for impetuosity, must avoid triumphalism and committing the gaffes that have so often sabotaged his ambitions in the past. Reflecting on his emergence from two years in the political

wilderness, tending the grass roots of France, M Chirac told *Le Figaro*: "Many people feel that I listened to them, that I understood their problems and that I can offer solutions." The line echoed General de Gaulle's famous declaration: "Français, je vous ai compris."

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Britain's embassy in Washington, where staff host briefings, lunches and receptions to fly the flag

Aitken 'good life' taunt provokes fury in embassies

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE weekend claim by Jonathan Aitken, the Treasury Minister, that too much money is spent by the Foreign Office on wine and dining, looks like a renewed push by the Treasury to find budget cuts in areas that will not cause political controversy at home.

Mr Aitken's contention is, however, likely to provoke a furious riposte from the Foreign Office, one of the smallest government departments which believes that continual sniping is undermining the whole basis of diplomacy at a time when the Government is trying to promote British strengths abroad with an unprecedented conference this week on Britain's place in the world.

Weary diplomats, tired of taunts about their "champagne and caviar lifestyle", pointed out yesterday that it costs £600 million a year to run the diplomatic service, and that entertainment accounts for less than 1 per cent of the Foreign Office budget—a figure dwarfed by the routine expenditures of the Ministry of Defence or the Department of Social Security.

Sir Christopher Mallaby, the British Ambassador in Paris, Britain's most expensive embassy abroad, has said he has never served caviar in all his time as ambassador. Entertainment budgets in Paris and other capitals are now so rigorously monitored that ambassadors have to justify every invitation in terms of the benefit to Britain's image and trade.

Diplomats say that Mr Aitken, as well as John Major, has confused the Foreign Office running costs with its capital assets. The Prime Minister's remark that the British High Commissioner to South Africa lives in "unbelievable luxury" was provoked by his amazement at the splendour of the British residence in Pretoria. This opulence is, however, the result of Britain's luck in acquiring the best sites in most capitals a century ago. For years Treasury officials,

looking at the short-term, have been pressing the Foreign Office to sell these buildings. Most were, however, bought outright years ago. To find alternative central accommodation to match the standard of even the smallest of Britain's European Union partners would cost a fortune; and to pay rent on a hired building would far outweigh the annual running costs of most chanceries and residences. In the 1970s, the Foreign Office succumbed to pressure, and sold houses picked up for a song in towns such as Bonn. It is now paying dearly to rent accommodation.

Highlighting the capital assets is also misleading: of Britain's 4,000 properties abroad, only 25 are classified as major historic residences.

Nor does the number of employees indicate much except the local status and costs of labour. It is far cheaper— and more socially acceptable— in some countries such as India to employ servants than install expensive labour-saving equipment.

Mr Aitken's reported remark that more than a billion pounds goes on embassies and diplomats is wrong: half the Foreign Office budget goes on diplomacy. The rest is spent on grants to the British Council, the BBC World Service, contributions to the United Nations, and other international bodies and the huge costs of peacekeeping.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, has had to contend with unfair remarks about the Foreign Office for years, both as a diplomat and as a minister. He believes that the danger today is that few people in Britain and even in government understand how British influence overseas directly benefits British jobs and voters at home. The conference to be held on Wednesday on Britain's place in the world, largely his brainchild, is an attempt to warn that neo-isolationism will eventually cost more than the money saved by this or that cut to the Foreign Office budget.



Aitken: confusing costs with assets

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A British car stops at the European Union gate between Spain and France at Girona where frontier formalities were abolished yesterday

Travellers sample open borders

The Schengen accord, ending internal frontier controls between seven European Union states and likely to be joined by all except Britain and Ireland, has caught some airports unprepared

THE European Union lurched closer to a frontier-free travel-zone yesterday with the abolition of passport checks, immigration controls, and all other frontier formalities in seven of its 15 states.

Five years after the original 1990 target, Germany, France, Spain, Portugal, Belgium, the Netherlands and Luxembourg took the first decisive step towards eliminating border bureaucracy.

Italy, Greece and Austria are expected to join the internal border-free zone later this year, while Denmark, Finland and Sweden are likely to follow. Only Britain has refused to sign up. Ireland would like to, but has effectively been blocked by London.

All flights between the seven signatories of the Schengen accord will in future depart and arrive from domestic terminals, theoretically doing away with the need for passengers to undergo passport checks. Passengers will, however, still have to show their boarding passes and passports may be required because airports have not made the necessary changes.

The abolition of internal frontiers has been accompanied by the erection of a new external frontier, designed to keep out illegal immigrants, drug smugglers, and terrorists. A new computer database, the Schengen Information System in Strasbourg, will enable police to check everyone crossing Schengenland's external border. The transition to a border-

free Europe has been fraught with difficulty. Despite claims that the multi-million pound transition change to a borderless Europe went without a hitch, *Times* reporters at airports around Europe found that many were unprepared.

FRANKFURT

YESTERDAY was the day the sheep were separated from the goats in Frankfurt, the Schengenlanders from the non-Schengenlanders (Roger Boyes writes). Some of the former seemed unaware that they no longer needed passports for, say, Spanish holiday destinations, and were delighted when they found out.

Some of the latter, not least British travellers, were confused by the proliferation of signs and arrows, and irritated that their passports were still being inspected.

By and large, however, Schengen Day One passed smoothly enough at Frankfurt airport, which is more than can be said for the other Frankfurt on the River Oder, the main eastern entry point to Schengenland. There, after a brisk and efficient start, the queue of cars and lorries was beginning to mount up. Poles previously waved through were being checked thorough-

ly. Each referral to the Schengen information system computer in Strasbourg took at least five minutes, and the result was a long tailback.

Frankfurt airport is one of Europe's air terminals. Schengenland begins between gates E3 and E9 in Terminal One.

Sheep bumped into goats, goats into sheep as the passengers — many of whom had never heard of the Schengen accord — tried to work out their new identities. Most bewildered were those European Union members — the Danes, the Greeks, the British, and a seemingly endless stream of Italians — who could not fathom why they were not in fast-lane Europe.

AMSTERDAM

SCHENGEN'S pioneer air travellers were initially thwarted at Schiphol airport yesterday morning when electronic gates failed to open for passengers newly entitled to bypass passport control (Mark Fuller writes).

The airport had not been able to rebuild its main terminal in time to accommodate Schengen. Under a provisional system, passengers travelling between Schengen countries were issued with a small

green card incorporating a magnetic strip that enabled them to pass through electronic turnstiles and avoid passport checks.

"We have had far fewer problems than we expected," Frank Rietveld, a Schiphol spokesman, said. "Most people seem to know what Schengen is about, and after the initial technological hiccup, the system has been flowing smoothly." The £52 million terminal conversion, which will segregate Schengen passengers from the rest, will be ready by December.

The three different checkpoints, one each for non-European Union passengers, non-Schengen EU passengers, and Schengen passengers, led however to a great deal of confusion among passengers of all classes. Many seemed not to understand the purpose of the green card or that the treaty had come into force.

Roger Gale, 45, a British computer scientist travelling from Amsterdam to Frankfurt, said he had "no clue" what the card was for. "I know about Schengen, but I didn't think it would affect me today. I'll keep the card as a souvenir," he said.

Other travellers were outraged that they could not have a card. Joop Kriek, 61, a Dutch company director, said he was

prevented from receiving a card under the terms of his charter ticket. "It's a complete sham," he said. "The system is stupid. Schengen is just a small cautious step towards open borders. If this is anything to go on, it is going to take years before the goal is actually achieved."

PASSENGERS at Orly and Roissy-Charles de Gaulle airports had a trouble-free day (Susan Bell writes).

To make administration of the new rules easier, the airports have undergone extensive reorganisation at a cost of more than £6.3 million. Both are coping with the new regulations by segregating passengers. At Charles de Gaulle, for example, Satellite 6 and Terminal 2D are reserved for Schengen passengers. Those arriving at these terminals will not be subject to passport controls.

One of the first beneficiaries of Schengen was Walter Jaeger, who arrived from Frankfurt at Charles de Gaulle Terminal 1, Satellite 6 yesterday to attend a trade show in Paris. "We only had to show our boarding passes at the gate," Herr Jaeger's only complaint was that he had been denied access to duty-free shopping at Frankfurt and had been unable to buy cigarettes. "It's easier for a smoker to travel to London," he joked.

Leading article, page 19

Albanians try to storm embassy

FROM TIM JUDAH IN TIRANA

ABOUT 1,000 young Albanians who tried to storm the American Embassy in Tirana at the weekend were dispersed after police opened fire. The crowd besieged the compound after newspaper rumours that work visas or papers for asylum-seekers were about to be issued.

According to diplomatic sources, the police started firing after some 200 people tried to climb the fence surrounding the embassy. Two people were reportedly injured but it is not clear whether they were shot or injured by 2ft long metal spikes which surround the mission.

□ **Bomb:** Thousands of Albanians from the Serbian province of Kosovo demanded recognition of the region as an independent state in protests here. (*Reuters*)

Greens and insurers find common cause at summit

BY NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

DELEGATES were yesterday descending on Berlin in preparation for the biggest and, it is claimed, most important green summit since the meeting in Rio de Janeiro three years ago.

More than 100 nations are meeting to discuss deeper cuts in power station and industrial emissions amid fears that if they continue to rise, the climate will become increasingly violent, unpredictable and damaging to agriculture, wildlife and human society.

There are likely to be tense negotiations after forecasts that few if any industrialised nations will meet previously agreed targets, let alone fresh ones. Existing targets require countries to stabilise greenhouse gas emissions at 1990 levels by 2000. Meanwhile, scientists trying to decide whether global warming will

become a reality are growing more confident about their predictions — adding to pressure on doubting leaders to act more firmly to tackle emissions.

A spate of natural disasters has also concentrated policymakers' minds, while sharpening those of staff in the biggest insurance firms. The growing relationship between green groups and the insurance industry is likely to be apparent at Berlin. Several senior officials met members of Greenpeace yesterday to find common ground.

Environmentalists see insurance firms as being big enough to take on the energy industry, which they believe they need to bring to heel if emissions are to be reduced significantly. Insurers believe the consequences of global warming are too devastating

financially to be ignored. The summit also comes amid reports by British and European economists on how financial policies can be reformed to reduce emissions. Dubbed the "win-win scenarios", these argue that increasing taxes on energy-guzzling industries and private transport can cut emissions while boosting economic output and employment, if the cash is used to reduce National Insurance contributions and encourage innovation.

A study for the European Commission by Dr Silvia Pariente-David, of the Paris-based research organisation DRI, has worked out the impact of energy and pollution taxes on the economies of Britain, France, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy and Spain.

Global warming, page 17

British soldier in coma dies

Zagreb: A British soldier serving with peacekeepers in Croatia has died after a road accident in the Adriatic port of Split, a United Nations spokesman said yesterday.

Private Lee Harper, 21, of Burnley, Lancashire, died in hospital after a three-day coma. His parents were at his bedside.

Harper was travelling in an army Land Rover when he fell out and sustained severe head injuries. (*AP*)

Blast kills 8

Delhi: Eight activists of India's ruling Congress party were killed in a landmine explosion yesterday in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh. Two other party workers were injured. (*Reuters*)

Fish talks fail

St John's, Newfoundland: Talks to settle the fish-war between Canada and the European Union ended as Ottawa threatened new action against Spanish boats fishing in disputed waters. (*Reuters*)

Bear necessity

Peking: Yong Liang, the first giant panda raised from birth in captivity but which was dying of anaemia, has been saved by a transfusion of red blood cells from two black bears at Peking Zoo.

Blue chip

Melbourne: The Daily Planet, Australia's largest brothel, says it plans to float on the Australian Stock Exchange this year. The Melbourne brothel has an estimated turn-

Uzbeks vote to extend President's rule

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

MILLIONS of Uzbek voters were expected yesterday to approve granting President Karimov, the Central Asian country's authoritarian leader, an extension of office into the next century.

In a move which has become popular among hardline rulers in the region's former Soviet republics, the Uzbek leader was expected to receive overwhelming support to postpone until 2000 elections scheduled for 1997. Officially the postponement will synchronise presidential polls with parliamentary elections due in 2000, but Western observers say the referendum is a Soviet-style rubber-stamp exercise to consolidate Mr Karimov's already considerable hold over his ancient Muslim nation.

The Uzbek leader suggested recently that his country was not yet ready for real

that democratic institutions cannot be imported," he told parliament in the capital, Tashkent. "They are created by society through great struggle."

It is almost impossible to assess accurately the real public mood in Uzbekistan, where opposition groups are banned or suppressed, the media is tightly controlled by the state, and foreign observers have not been allowed to monitor the polls.

The extension of rule through referendum is proving something of a political trend in Central Asia, where former Communist Party bosses have shown great reluctance to loosen their grip on power. The move is seen partly as an attempt to control the pace of democratic and economic reform and to avoid the chaos and anarchy which have

mocracy. On Saturday President Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan decreed that his oil-rich country will hold a referendum next month to decide whether his tenure should also be extended to December 2000, promising "a dictatorship of the constitution and the law".

The Uzbek and Kazakh leaders appear to be following the lead of President Niyazov, leader of neighbouring Turkmenistan, who won an extension of power to 2002.

□ **Tiraspol:** Moldova's breakaway Dnestr region turned out in force yesterday for a referendum intended to prevent the withdrawal of Russia's 14th Army, seen as the only safeguard against a repeat of the 1992 bloodshed in which hundreds died in fighting between local separatists and Moldavian government

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US condemns Iraq for jail terms given to two Americans

By IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON AND MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

WASHINGTON yesterday denounced the eight-year jail terms imposed on two Americans who strayed across the Kuwaiti border into Iraq. A senior Republican politician called for the United States to look at possible military options in retaliation.

Richard Lugar, a Republican senator who is seeking his party's presidential nomination, said: "I think we have to take that chance."

Washington warned Baghdad that the fate of the two Americans, William Barloon, 39, and David Daliberti, 41, could not be used as leverage to lift the United Nations oil embargo. Iraq, meanwhile, rejected a new US and British proposal that would allow the sale of some oil strictly to buy relief goods and for Gulf War reparations.

Tariq Aziz, the Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, condemned the plan as a "silly" manoeuvre designed to prolong sanctions, while giving Iraq too little money and trying to separate permanently the Kurds in northern Iraq from Baghdad's control.

Mr Barloon and Mr Daliberti, who entered Iraq illegally, were tried, convicted and sentenced in Baghdad on Saturday. Two Polish diplomats, who represent US interests in Iraq, attended the trial as observers. A defence lawyer was appointed by Baghdad.

Both men, employed by US

companies with aircraft maintenance contracts in Kuwait, lost their way nearly two weeks ago while trying to visit friends at a UN post in the demilitarised zone. It is unclear how they inadvertently drove across a trench, 10ft deep and 16ft wide, that was built along the 130-mile border by Kuwait last year. After a series of errors at checkpoints, they reached the southern Iraqi town of Umm Qasr, where they were arrested.

The White House and State Department said the pair had made an innocent mistake and had committed no crime to justify the stiff sentences. Mr Barloon's wife, Linda, said in Kuwait: "I'm devastated. I just can't believe it."

The US sent a firm request to Iraq that they be released immediately on humanitarian grounds. Christine Shelly, State Department spokeswoman, said the sentences were "an attempt to take advantage of two Americans".

Under the new oil proposal, Iraq would be allowed to sell oil worth \$1 billion (£633 million) over three months, followed by a similar amount in the next three months and renewable for additional periods of six months if Iraq complied.

For each \$1 billion received, \$300 million would go to a UN Gulf War reparations fund and \$200 million to UN agencies which provide relief to

Kurds in the northern no-fly zone of Iraq. Baghdad could use the remainder for medicines, food and other emergency supplies.

Mr Aziz said the new proposal would in effect amount to seven dollars to provide food and medicines for each Iraqi every month.

There were growing fears, meanwhile, that Turkey's military offensive by 35,000 soldiers against Iraqi Kurds rebels in northern Iraq might play into the hands of President Saddam Hussein, who has effectively lost control of the northern territory to the Kurds.

Turkey's military action which continued yesterday with rigorous searches for members of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), was condemned last night by Lord Archer, the millionaire author and former Tory party chairman as a "barbaric" assault.

Launching a charity appeal for Kurdish refugees, he said Turkey was acting without authority, and he warned Ankara that the operation could damage Turkey's hopes of joining the European Union.

Lord Archer said: "The 35,000 soldiers should leave immediately. While recognising the problem with the PKK in Turkey, that does not give them the right to kill innocent Kurds in their pursuit of terrorists."

Nearly 2,000 refugees had to be rescued by UN aid officials in northern Iraq yesterday. The refugees, Turkish Kurds who went to northern Iraq last year, were caught up in Turkey's military operation.

Officials from the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, the UN Children's Fund and Quandil, a Swedish humanitarian organisation, provided 30 trucks to move nearly 2,000 Turkish Kurds from Zakho on the border to Arush, about 60 miles to the south. Arush is already filled with more than 9,000 Turkish Kurds. The refugees fled from their villages in Turkey last year because of fighting between Turkish forces and the PKK.



A policeman in protective clothing stands guard over barrels of chemicals confiscated from an Aum Shrinrikyo compound

By GWEN ROBINSON IN TOKYO

Bunker link to gas attack

MORE details of the bizarre lifestyle and practices of Aum Shinrikyo, the religious cult which has been linked by police to the poison gas attack on Tokyo's subway system, emerged at the weekend as about 1,000 investigators equipped with power shovels, axes and chainsaws excavated a secret bunker beneath the residence of Shoko Asahara, the cult leader.

Police said the bunker was

used to imprison cult members and to store lethal chemicals for a "poison gas plant" which was discovered in a nearby building in the cult's sprawling compound. The weekend search, mounted after three consecutive days of police raids on the sect's premises around Japan, also provided fresh evidence implicating the sect in the gas attack. Police confirmed that

chemical samples taken from the sect's headquarters matched those from subway carriages after Monday's gas attack last June which killed seven and injured 50 people in Matsumoto, a city near the sect's headquarters. The findings have given police their first conclusive evidence of the sect's involvement in the two gas attacks.

The Government is now preparing charges against Mr Asahara and his followers of "preparation to commit mass murder".

Speculation about the sect's involvement quickly reached fever pitch from the first news of last Monday's gas attack, which killed ten and injured more than 5,000 people.

Residents around the affluent inner Tokyo area of Azabu

yesterday found threats of new gas attacks stuffed in their mailboxes.

Japanese companies in Australia at the weekend received threats citing the Tokyo subway attack and saying their facilities would be next.

Japanese police said they are treating all such threats as hoaxes. Many Japanese, however, feel that with Mr Asahara and his followers still at large, no threat can be dismissed.

Japanese god, page 17

New Islamic extremists vow war on Jews

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

A NEW Palestinian Islamic extremist group emerged yesterday in the Gaza Strip modelled on Algeria's extreme Islamic Salvation Front and dedicated to mounting attacks on "every Jew on the land of Palestine".

The Islamic Front for the Salvation of Palestine appeared 48 hours after Yasser Arafat, the chief of the Palestinian Authority, promised in talks with Al Gore, the American Vice-President, to crack down on "the enemies of

peace" within the self-rule enclaves of Gaza and Jericho.

Yesterday Algerian newspapers reported that troops had killed more than 300 rebels of the armed Islamic group after ambushing them on a tip-off. The confrontation was the biggest reported in Algeria's three-year conflict.

The new group in Gaza is being taken seriously by Israeli security forces, disturbed at the failure of the police to cope with the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and Islamic Jihad. The new force, like its

Algerian counterparts, declared war on "the influence of the West found in cinemas, alcohol, gambling and prostitution". Sources in Gaza said that it was expected to take action against such phenomena as the growing number of women spurning the Muslim headscarf and the recent staging of a fashion show at an hotel close to Mr Arafat's headquarters.

Recent visitors to Gaza saw a more relaxed Islamic influence evident after the arrival of Mr Arafat and his followers from cosmopolitan Tunisia has been replaced by a harder line. In

the one Gaza hotel which permitted Westerners to purchase alcohol, albeit a ration of three cans of beer a day, all supplies have now disappeared.

President Mubarak of Egypt predicted last year that Gaza could become the base for more widespread Islamic extremism that could threaten Europe, unless there was a rapid injection of aid. This has still not materialised in anywhere near the quantities pledged when peace between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation was signed 18 months ago.

First Lady welcomed by Bhutto

FROM AFP IN ISLAMABAD

BENAZIR BHUTTO, the Pakistani Prime Minister, yesterday described Hillary Clinton, the American First Lady, as a symbol for the women of the world.

At a luncheon for the wife of President Clinton here, Miss Bhutto praised her role in the cause of women, children and education, saying: "I am utterly fascinated by Hillary Clinton's efforts to redefine the role of women in the United States - you are a symbol for all women in East and West."

Mrs Clinton in turn described Miss Bhutto's leadership as a "beacon for all of us", adding that "women are breaking new ground" and winning new opportunities everywhere in the world.

Mrs Clinton flew to Islamabad late on Saturday on the first leg of her two-week South Asian tour. She will also visit India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Sri Lanka. In her arrival statement, after being welcomed by Asif Ali Zardari, Miss Bhutto's husband, she said: "Our nations have enjoyed a long friendship and shared interests, and for that reason, I am pleased to begin my visit to South Asia from here in Pakistan."

Day of freedom knocks out Tyson

FROM JAMES BONE IN SOUTHINGTON, OHIO

MIKE TYSON'S sprawling brick mansion in Ohio might seem the perfect refuge for a man who has spent the last three years in a jail cell just 8ft by 11ft.

In the best tradition of American bad taste, the 60-acre compound has sunken marble baths, gold-plated furnishings, and a swimming pool in the shape of a boxing glove. However, when the former world heavyweight boxing champion ventures beyond the main gate, he will find himself in the decaying "Rust Belt" of America amid shuttered shops and silent steel mills.

After a weekend relaxing at home with his new girlfriend, Tyson is due today to meet his probation officer in nearby Youngstown, a city which is so poor that outsiders hesitate to drive there. Under the terms of his conviction for rape in 1991, he must serve four years probation, undergo psychological counselling and perform 100 hours of community service each year. There is speculation that he will fulfil this requirement by coaching local youngsters in the ring.

Tyson could make \$50 million (£32 million) from his first fight, and millions more if he tries to recapture his world crown. He is in this unlikely corner of Ohio for one reason: Don King, his promoter, who faces trial this summer on charges of defrauding Lloyd's

of London of insurance money when a fight was cancelled, bought a home in the Southington area after serving four and a half years in jail for manslaughter, and established a boxing training camp close by.

When Tyson arrived home on Saturday morning the trees along the road were festooned with yellow ribbons and fans waiting at his gate. A large banner in front of the house proclaimed: "Champ, We Missed You". Riding in a white jeep, Tyson drove straight past his supporters and disappeared into the grounds with Monica Turner, 28, the mini-skirted medical student believed to be the boxer's new love.

Hans Strauss, a Las Vegas "caterer-to-the-stars", had been asked to lay on a lavish homecoming banquet and had bought goats, lambs, pigs, rabbits and seafood. However, after meeting several friends and relatives in the afternoon, Tyson called off the celebrity bash. According to one of his entourage, he was just too tired.

Wearing a white Muslim prayer cap, Tyson earlier walked out of the jail and made straight for a service at a nearby mosque.

The contest among his many suitors is over. The decision is in: his heart has gone to Miss Turner; his body to Mr King; his soul to Allah.

Hollywood madam's plea fails

By GILES WHITTILL

HEIDI FLEISS, who was convicted in January of running a high-class call-girl operation for Hollywood's rich and famous, has been denied a retrial despite confessions of juror misconduct.

Fleiss, 29, had been widely expected to win a retrial after the jury forewoman admitted that she and others had agreed to convict her on charges of soliciting for prostitution in return for an acquittal on the drugs charges that she also faced.

The Supreme Court decided last Friday that the juror misconduct, though serious, would not have affected the outcome of the trial. She faces up to eight years' jail.



Fleiss reacts after the court ruling

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(Charity Ref. No. 231523)

An Easter Message

Winter has gone - and with it went many of our gravely ill guests. They left safe in our hands - hands so kindly and constantly supported by yours.

Prayerfully & gratefully we wish you all the blessings of Easter and the pleasures of Spring.

Sister Superior.

US Governor ruffles feathers

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

PETE WILSON, the Governor of California, has angered environmentalists only days before he is expected to announce formally that he will stand for the presidency. He has suggested that the laws protecting the state's endangered species should be reformed.

Bighorn sheep, brown pelicans, and bald eagles - America's national bird - will be threatened if California's Endangered Species Act is watered down as Mr Wilson wishes, senior environ-

mentalists said. The Republican Governor, who announced the formation of a presidential exploratory committee last week, wants stronger proof that an animal's habitat is in jeopardy before it is put on the endangered list. He also wants to remove penalties for landowners who destroy habitats that may be critical to a species' survival.

Critics said his proposal could involve a "massive and costly bureaucratic burden". Its beneficiaries, according to Mike Paparian, of the Sierra

Club, America's oldest environmental organisation, "are agribusiness, large developers, and large oil companies". Mr Paparian added that "these are the very same constituencies that have traditionally financed Governor Wilson's campaigns".

"The Endangered Species Act is a law with the best of intentions, but one that yields unsatisfactory environmental benefits and far too many unintended adverse economic consequences," a spokesman for Mr Wilson said on Friday.

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



OPERA

The third instalment of Richard Jones's controversial Ring production arrives at Covent Garden

OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



VISUAL ART

Richard Avedon: a 50-year retrospective at the National Portrait Gallery for America's most famous photographer

OPEN: Now
REVIEW: Tomorrow



MUSIC

Dutch treat: Riccardo Chailly conducts an all-German programme with the Concertgebouw at the Barbican

CONCERT: Tuesday
REVIEW: Thursday



POP

A legend returns: Bob Dylan's most comprehensive British tour for 30 years arrives at the Brixton Academy

GIG: Wednesday
REVIEW: Friday

LONDON

SUBSIDISED: To call the Bernard Hecht-Richard Jones-Nigel Lowery Ring production controversial may be the height of understatement but it does couple an utterly original, anarchic and thought-provoking approach to the text with some of the finest music-making to be heard in Wagner today. With John Tomlinson, Seán Connolly, Anne Evans and Graham Clark. Royal Opera House, Bow Street, WC2 (0171-304 4000). Tonight, 8.30pm.

THE MEMORANDUM: Opening night for a revival of President Havel's surreal comedy about office intrigue and a world new language, supposedly designed to improve efficiency. Dating from 1965 and given as UK premiere here in 1977. Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond (0181-940 3833). Tonight, 7.45pm, Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat. Sat 3.00, Sun 2.00, 2.30pm, Sat 4pm. Urd Art 25.

ANDREW WILDE: A young Brit emerging as an international star gives a piano recital of works by Chopin and Haydn. Not to be missed for an evening of greatly enjoyable talent-spotting. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-582 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm.

BETTY CARTER: Book early for Carter's brief season — she may overdo the mainstream at times but at her best she is a hypnotic live presence. Make a point of catching the opening instru-

IS ANYT' MISBEHAVIN'? Exhilarating song 'n' dance show created from the hits of Fats Waller. Non-stop energy on test. Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-414 5043). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 3pm.

THE BLUE BALL: Paul Godfrey, author of *Once in a While the Old Things Happen*, depicts his new play, an investigation into the experience of Socrates, as revealed to the first Socrates. National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Now previewing, 7.30pm, opens March 30.

CRACKEN GLASS: Arthur Miller's masterly drama, dealing his blistering account with personal responsibility. David Thacker's production, with Henry Goodman and Margaret Lockwood. Duke of York's, 5, Albany Lane, WC2 (0171-494 5082). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat. Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 3pm.

BURNING BLUE: Strong and moving play by former leftie poet D.M.W. Greer about friendship, doomed gay love and a witch hunt in the US. New John T. Hickock directs a cast of eight. King's Head, Upper Street, N1 (0171-262 1318). Tue-Sat, 8pm; mat. Sun, 3.30pm. Ticket availability is for tomorrow.

CONVERSATIONS WITH MY FATHER: Judd Hirsch re-creates his father's award-winning performance in Herb Gardner's play, covering 40 years of Jewish experience in New York. When it's told, it's fairly tight. Alan Ayckbourn directs.

NEW RELEASES

DRIP ZONE (15): Wesley Snipes goes undercover to catch sky-dive criminals. Good aerial stunts; otherwise, an empty action thriller. With Yancy Butler and Gary Busey. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031). Price (0800 889597) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by director Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm. Barlodon (0171-438 8891) Chelmsford (0171-351 3742) Gaiety (0171-727 4043) Lumiere (0171-536 0691).

MAGICAL HEMLOCK (15): 1927 silent film about a man who kills his wife. With John Gielgud and Margaret Lockwood. UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18): Erotic play about life, sex, power and money. With Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale and Tom Cruise as the man who seduces her. Director, John Dahl. Prime Classics (0171-437 8181).

DISCLOSURE (18): Michael Douglas says to his David Morse. A suspenseful version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson.

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TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

mental number by her musicians: Carter has a knack of finding the sharpest new plays in New York. *Richard Jones's Ring*, Covent Garden, W1 (0171-438 0747). Tonight-Apr 8, from 9.30pm.

ELSEWHERE
BRISTOL: Bernard Hill is magnificent as Eddie, the over-protective guardian in David Thacker's production of *Miller's A View from the Bridge*. A production with Bristol Old Vic and West End bound. Repertory, Conventry Square (0117-281 4455). Tonight-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Tues and Thurs, 2.30pm. First week.

BOLTON: The Family Way. Bill Naughton's crisp rewrite of his 1960s hit *At the Good Time*, has just opened. A comic look at the difficulties besetting a young couple in the 1960s. Theatres, 10, Market Street, Bolton (01204 330881). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Apr 12 and 22, 2pm. Urd Art 25.

CANBERRA: Tied to the West End. *Richard Jones's Ring*, Covent Garden, W1 (0171-438 0747). Tonight-Apr 8, from 9.30pm.

THE STRIP: Phyllis Naylor's new play follows a woman's journey from Las Vegas. Don't expect great interior progression, enjoy it as a post-modernist mosaic. Royal Court, Stone Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 3.30pm.

UPUNDER: John Godber's razor play, done by Hancu. *Upunder*, 10, Market Street, Bolton (01204 330881). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Apr 12 and 22, 2pm. Urd Art 25.

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THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

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CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and elsewhere. Indicated with the symbol () on release across the country

DRIP ZONE (15): Wesley Snipes goes undercover to catch sky-dive criminals. Good aerial stunts; otherwise, an empty action thriller. With Yancy Butler and Gary Busey. MGM Home Video (0171-434 0031). Price (0800 889597) UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE MADNESS OF KING GEORGE (PG): Nigel Hawthorne reigns supreme as Alan Bennett's tormented monarch. A fine film transfer by director Nicholas Hytner, with Helen Mirren and Ian Holm. Barlodon (0171-438 8891) Chelmsford (0171-351 3742) Gaiety (0171-727 4043) Lumiere (0171-536 0691).

MAGICAL HEMLOCK (15): 1927 silent film about a man who kills his wife. With John Gielgud and Margaret Lockwood. UCI Whiteleys (0171-792 3332) Warner (0171-437 4343).

THE LAST SEDUCTION (18): Erotic play about life, sex, power and money. With Linda Fiorentino as the femme fatale and Tom Cruise as the man who seduces her. Director, John Dahl. Prime Classics (0171-437 8181).

DISCLOSURE (18): Michael Douglas says to his David Morse. A suspenseful version of Michael Crichton's sexual harassment novel. Director, Barry Levinson.

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DIS



DANCE

Russian classic: the Royal Ballet revives Petrushka to showcase the dramatic talents of Irek Mukhamedov
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Monday



THEATRE

Out of this world: *The Blue Ball*, a new play by Paul Godfrey at the National, looks at the experience of Space
OPENS: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILM

Sean Connery puts his principles — and his life — on the line as he investigates an old murder in *Just Cause*
OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday



BOOKS

Behind Hollywood's most famous face: two new biographies lift the lid on the life and times of Elizabeth Taylor
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday

ARTS
TUESDAY TO
FRIDAY
IN SECTION 2

It looks like it, but is it it?

Alex Benady asks the experts whether advertising can transcend trade and appease the gods of art and mammon

Three naked fat men with abscesses on their eyes sit playing cards in a warehouse. The flayed and bloody carcass of a cow is splattered over the concrete beside them. Next, a woman in a butcher's shop models a meat bikini, with salami bra and cow-tongue pants. Finally, a human sphincter excretes a kidney bean. These disturbing images of death and decay bear the unmistakable signature of the controversial artist Damien Hirst, and you would be forgiven for supposing that the 60-second film from which they are taken was destined for exhibition at the ICA or some other temple of the avant-garde.

In fact, it was an advertisement made last year for the television station TNT to publicise its 100 Per Cent Weird late-night film season. But while according to the brief it may have been, on air it wasn't. TNT declined to use it.

Whatever its merits, the film does beg the question: can advertising ever be considered art? The advertising industry is certainly keen to have us believe so. Tony Kaye, arguably the world's leading advertising film director — with such ads as the surreal S&M epic for Dunlop tyres to his credit — has demonstrated on the steps of the Tate Gallery, demanding that the Dunlop film be exhibited as art. And he has no problem comparing himself to the world's greatest filmmakers. "I like to shoot very much like a modernised version of the Russian cinematographer Eisenstein," he once said.

It is true that the links between advertising and art are almost inextricable. Both use many of the same skills, and often involve the same individuals. And art has always had a strong element of propaganda. From the political messages of Renaissance art through the boastfulness of English 19th-century portraiture to the striking anti-Fascist polemic of John Hartfield in the 1930s, art has always pursued some ideological or economic agenda.

According to Michael Kauffmann, director of the Courtauld Institute, art has had a key influence over commercial messages since they first emerged in the 17th century. "Each stylistic phase of advertising is inspired by the forms of high art," he says, and points to the way that 20th-century posters



The exception that proves the rule: Tony Kaye, arguably the world's leading advertising film director, turned his surreal S&M epic for Dunlop tyres into an artistic tour de force

have been "predominantly influenced by Surrealism, which allows for peculiar treatment of images, and Constructivism, which influenced typography."

In the latter half of the 20th century, advertising has influenced the work of artists such as Andy Warhol, Roy Lichtenstein, Graham Sutherland and Paul Nash. Film directors such as Alan Parker and Ridley Scott learnt their craft in advertising before moving on to cinema.

But just because they are linked does not mean they are the same thing. The question of whether advertising is art begs the question: what is art? For Chris Frayling, Professor of Cultural History at the Royal Academy, the most obviously "arty" ads are least likely to be art. He points to the example of tobacco advertisements that are clearly influenced by abstract art: "They merely use the language of art, rather than being art," he says.

The real issue is not style, he adds,

but how an image is decoded. "If there are a number of readings, then it is art," he says. Product ads that have a punchline are therefore unlikely to make the grade (although he admits that Kaye's Dunlop film does). Most likely to meet his definition are corporate ads, which try to engender a feeling, not a specific message. Frayling cites Ridley Scott's 1984 corporate film for Apple Computers as a prime example of advertising that makes it as art.

David Lee, editor of *Art Review*, argues that although much of advertising gives up its message too easily, in one important sense it could be considered to be the fine art of the day. "Art has always confirmed the ideology of the ruling classes," he says. "By the same token, advertising reflects the values of monopoly capitalism."

He points out that the idea of "art for art's sake" is a comparatively modern notion. "The definition of art has changed since about 1790. It

is only since then that it has had a purpose in its own right. Before then it always had some other purpose."

The view of advertising as art receives further support in the unlikely form of Brian Sewell, arch-classicist art critic of the *London Evening Standard*. "Advertising shouldn't be art: it is transitional and it does not deal with the great issues," he says. But Sewell scorns what he claims is the lack of thought and poor craft skills in much modern art. "Art as practised in the temples of art is just a matter of assertion. You could say the only place where many of the visual traditions and the use of classical references are being continued is in advertising."

"For instance, a Peugeot driving through burning cane fields could be redolent of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse moving towards some sort of Göterdämmerung," he says, without revealing how much tongue he has in his cheek. But many figures in the art

establishment reject the notion of advertising as art. As art critic of *The Spectator*, Giles Aitj is perhaps uniquely qualified, as an accomplished artist and former advertising man, to comment. For him, the commercial intent of advertising precludes it from being art. "Good art is an expression of inner belief that isn't tampered with," he says. "Advertising has the appearance of art, but it has a different intention, the specific end of persuading people with a commercial message, which disqualifies it."

"Advertising can never be art," says Simon Wilson, curator of interpretation at the Tate Gallery in London. He refers to Oscar Wilde's dictum that "all art is quite useless", and says that "if something has a use, then it is not art. Advertising has a use, it sells things."

To complicate matters further, some people believe that it is not only a change of place but also the "winnowing of time" that can turn

advertising into art. Professor Anthony Jones, Rector of the Royal College of Art, illustrates the point with the example of a poster by the French artist Cassandre for the Normandy shipping line in the 1930s. "The Normandy Line is no longer in business, and therefore that image no longer has a commercial meaning. Now it is regarded as art, and quite rightly so."

It is a controversy that shows no sign of receding and which seems to encourage protagonists to pop up in unexpected positions. Surprisingly, Damien Hirst agrees that, despite containing some of the same themes as his art, the film for TNT was not art because its role was to sell. "It gives up its meaning too easily," he says.

He recently created a sculpture called *Looking Forward to the Relief of Pain*. Embedded in it are four television monitors showing commercials for pain relief products. "That is the only way ads can become art," he says.

Treasure best left buried

CONCERT

BBCSO/Davis
Festival Hall

DESPITE the pre-concert fuss made about this British premiere, Messiaen's *Chant des Desportes*, written in 1945 shortly after his release from a prisoner-of-war camp to mark the return of all such French prisoners to their homeland and rediscovered only in 1991, is an oddity best left in the archives.

This marriage of crunchy, soupy Messiaen's orchestral layers with a tune that comes direct from the patriotic stable of *La Marseillaise* is a prospect redolent of Berlioz-like gaucheness that simply does not work.

Still, at least we now know, although were I a member of the tenor or soprano sections of the BBC Symphony Chorus I would be a little miffed to have given up a free evening just for this piece.

It came after an exquisitely placed, aromatic performance of *Cinq Rechants*, in which Simon Joly conducted the BBC Singers, and before a performance of the monumental *Turanguilla* symphony, both part of Messiaen's "Tristan" trilogy, and both finished in 1948.

The two pieces share other features. If *Cinq Rechants* is all swooping lines, erotic harmonies and mantric chant, so is *Turanguilla*. But the choral piece juxtaposes those characteristics within individual movements, while *Turanguilla*'s ten-movement form allows Messiaen to explore them more thoroughly, for instance in the mesmerically rhythmic three "Turanguilla" movements themselves, where the ritual aspects of love counter the lush and lavish emotions found elsewhere in the work.

This was a wonderfully full-blooded performance from that most indulgent of conductors, Andrew Davis, the willingly euphonious and exultant choir of instrumentalists, the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and with those two indefatigable sisters, Jeanne Loriod and Yvonne Loriod (Mrs Messiaen), as glittering piano and haunting, swooping Ondes Martenot soloists.

STEPHEN PETTITT

Roamer Juliet

IS THERE a British performer (or writer or director for that matter) not going to Broadway? The latest to join the line-up is Juliet Stevenson, who will make her New York stage debut next season at the Roundabout Theatre as Nora in *A Doll's House*, a play she has already filmed for the BBC. Stevenson, you may remember, was pipped at the post by Glenn Close on her last hoped-for Broadway venture, when Close was given Stevenson's London role in the Broadway version of Ariel Dorfman's *Death and the Maiden*.

It looks as if Stevenson may arrive in Manhattan around the same time as playwright Jonathan Harvey, whose award-winning *Beautiful Thing* has been optioned for an off-Broadway run in the autumn. One person not headed for New York, at least for the moment, is Peter Hall: plans for him to restage his acclaimed London production of Shaw's *An Ideal Husband*



Juliet Stevenson heads for a Broadway date with Ibsen

on Broadway have fallen through because of problems with casting.

NICHOLAS HYTNER, and not the previously-mentioned Kenneth Branagh, will direct a major Hollywood feature film of Arthur Miller's *The Crucible*. Hytner is a hot cinematic property after the success of *The Madness of King George*, while Branagh's film of Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* was one of last year's turkeys. Branagh, though, is far from idle: he has started

production in Woking directing his own script of *In the Bleak Midwinter*, a low-budget English comedy with a cast headed by Michael Maloney, Richard Briers, Celia Imrie and Joan Collins.

A 22-YEAR-OLD student from Newcastle University has beaten professional artists by winning top spot in the NatWest 90s Prize for Art. Diarmuid Kelley takes home £5,000 after winning the first painting competition he had ever entered. *The NatWest 90s Prize for Art*, which is open to art students and professional artists up to the age of 35, aims to encourage a return to "fundamental artistic skills such as drawing, composition, colour and control of the medium".

NATIONAL Theatre regular and Olivier nominee (for *Sweet Bird of Youth*), Clare Higgins is taking a brief pause from the stage to focus on films. Fresh from Richard Eyre's BBC TV version of David Hare's play *The Absence of War*, Higgins will next star in *Easter House*, the new film from director Gillies MacKinnon (*The Bluebird*).

A life well worth living and reliving

George Chisholm was once hailed as "a superlative musician with an ageless style" by no less an authority than the late Leonard Feather, so it was entirely fitting that his 80th birthday should be marked by a concert of appropriately ageless music.

Slide by Slide — fellow trombonists Pete Strange and Ray Wordsworth — backed by the Martin Litton Trio, eased themselves into the proceedings with Duke Ellington's *It Don't Mean a Thing*. Thereafter, joined sporadically by clarinetist-saxophonist John Barnes, they continued to plumb Chisholm's discography for similar mainstream classics.

Chisholm can claim, with some justification, to have been the first British jazz musician to establish himself on the international scene. Two recording sessions in the late 1930s helped him to do this. The first, in 1937, came when Chisholm was recruited by Benny Carter to join a band, later also to feature Coleman Hawkins, in Holland, and from that session the tribute concert chose *Pardon Me Pretty Baby*.

Wordsworth and Strange traded licks in lively, cogent fashion, but it was Barnes on all but the American's use of trumpet in the original piece's jammed introduction, stole the show with a lively but cultured solo packed with ideas.

The second session, in 1938, was led by the legendary pianist Fats Waller during a tour of the UK, and Chisholm was so eager to take part that he interrupted his honeymoon on Jersey to do so.

George Chisholm
80th Birthday
Tribute
Purcell Room

piano version by Litton of Waller's virtuosic *Smashing Thirds*, the entire tribute band took two pieces from the famous prewar session — *Flat Foot Floogie* and *Ain't Misbehavin'* — and used them as starting points for informal but highly enjoyable excursions, both vocal and instrumental.

Chisholm's contribution to strictly UK-based jazz, however, was not overlooked. In addition to his work with larger ensembles such as the wartime RAF band the Squadronaires, the Scottish trombonist also graced smaller units.

From an early 1970s Alex Welsh recording, Slide by Slide resurrected a trombone duet of Cole Porter's *It's All Right With Me*: the whole band gave a brisk workout to *There's Honey on the Moon Tonight* (from Victor Sylvester's *Jive Band*), and the *Melody Maker* All Stars were commemorated with a beautifully restrained, mellow version of Ellington's *Mood Indigo*.

Although illness prevented Chisholm being present at the concert, this was a suitably broad-based tribute to him, tastefully representative of all aspects of a trailblazing jazz career.

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Scientists meet to celebrate a remarkable British discovery □ Machine plays a molecular ball game □ Measuring the damage to a boxer's brain



MORE than 180 scientists are meeting at the Babraham Institute, near Cambridge, for a celebratory conference today. It is 30 years since Dr Alec Bangham, working at the institute, discovered liposomes — hollow, microscopic spheres of fatty materials that form spontaneously in water.

Since then, liposomes have spawned more than 13,000 scientific papers and 1,500 patents, found their way into skin creams and compounds used to save the lives of premature babies, and they are at last, after many disappointments, proving successful as drug-delivery systems. Dr Bangham, now retired but still very active, will be there to discuss the latest developments, including one of the most exciting — the so-called "stealth" liposomes, which are not detected by the immune system.

Wrapped around a drug, these little packages survive for long periods in the bloodstream and they can thus greatly increase the effectiveness of the treatment. The

In praise of the liposome



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

drug is slowly released so that it does not damage healthy organs, and is not removed by the body's own defences.

Liposome Technology, of Menlo Park, California, last month won approval from a committee of the US Food and Drug Administration for its drug SL-Dox, designed to treat Kaposi's sarcoma, a cancer that attacks AIDS patients. SL-Dox consists of the cancer drug doxorubicin, wrapped in a

stealth liposome. In animal models it has shown excellent results, completely clearing colon cancers in mice and

showing effectiveness against breast and lung cancers, too. In the Kaposi's trial in human patients, the liposomes deliver more than ten times as much of the drug to the tumour as doxorubicin alone.

In Britain, liposomes are being used in the gene therapy trial taking place at the Royal Marsden Hospital for the treatment of cystic fibrosis, a hereditary lung disease. Here the pack-

ages are used to wrap up the correct version of the gene, which is then sprayed into the noses of the patients. The first results show that the gene succeeds in finding

its way into the cells lining the nose, which are very similar to those of the lung.

Another product that gives Dr Bangham much pleasure is ALEC — artificial lung-expanding compound — which last year won a licence in Britain for the treatment of acute respiratory distress in premature babies. Such babies are born without sufficient surfactant, the compound responsible for keeping the lungs inflated, and ALEC, marketed by Britannia Pharmaceuticals, repairs the deficiency.

When Dr Bangham retired in 1981, he wrote to 50 scientists in the field, asking them to contribute a letter, poem, or clerihew about liposomes. He felt that too much scientific literature was banal, stereotyped, and platitudinous. The results were published as *Liposome Letters*, by Academic Press in 1984.

Here is a taste of one of them, by Gregory Gregoriadis: "Little fatty vesicles of bilayer fame! protean and elusive, fragile all the same... Anybody who can inspire scientists to write poems richly deserves this week's celebration."

On the move



BROWNIAN motion hops in and out of scientific history as erratically as the process it describes. Robert Brown, a Scottish botanist, first noticed it in 1827 when observing pollen grains in water through a microscope. They seemed to be dancing about in a random way.

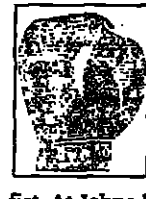
In 1905 Einstein, in his first important paper, showed that if the water consisted of molecules in random motion, then the movement of the pollen resulted from collisions between grains and water molecules. Now some physicists from Princeton have converted Brownian motion into a tiny machine, by creating an "optical thermal ratchet".

The Princeton system, invented by Albert Libchaber and colleagues, consists of a microscopic plastic sphere floating in water illuminated by an infrared laser beam which rotates rapidly, tracing a circle just seven micrometres in diameter. The beam induces a

charge on the sphere, trapping it where the field is strongest, along the perimeter of the circle.

Now comes the clever bit. Libchaber passes the light through a "chopper" that modulates it, to create a series of jagged hills, like a ratchet, around the circular field. The ball runs up to the top of these hills, seeking the maximum field. By turning the chopper on and off, the sphere can be made to migrate round and round the circle. Ingenious, but is it useless? Maybe not. Some French researchers who have made a similar device believe that it might prove useful for separating mixtures of cells, viruses or chromosomes.

Round One



THE injury to the boxer Gerald McClellan has focused attention on what happens when a boxer's head is thumped by another boxer's fist. At Johns Hopkins University, in Baltimore, scientists are trying to find out, by attaching accel-

ometers to the helmets worn by amateur boxers. The tiny devices record head motions in three directions, storing the results on a computer memory card. Printed out, the record looks rather like a seismogram, showing peaks at the moments of impact when the fighter receives a blow to the head.

The next stage will be to give amateur boxers wearing the devices brain scans before and after bouts. "It will enable us to understand a lot about head injury because we are going to be recording cause and effect," said the device's designer, Dr Nick Jones.

The group recently completed an eight-year study funded by the US Olympic Committee and the National Institutes of Health in which it looked at brain function of 484 amateur boxers between the ages of 13 and 21 in six American cities.

Tests showed no evidence that amateur boxing impairs the function of the brain, but the same does not, apparently, apply to fights in the professional ring. The group hopes that the accelerometer could lead to safety improvements there, too.

A climate of confusion

Central to the UN convention on climate change, which opens in Berlin today, are projections of global warming based on computer models of the greenhouse effect. But can we rely on the figures that have been fed into the programs? Measuring the temperature of the Earth's surface is immensely complicated and is still the subject of dispute.

Getting a balanced coverage of the whole of the planet is hard, especially in the southern hemisphere where there are huge areas of ocean which have never been subject to regular measurements. At the Meteorological Office, Chris Folland and David Parker have built up the definitive record of sea-surface temperatures. Dating back to 1856, it

As scientists meet to discuss global warming, how reliable are their figures? William Burroughs reports

consists of more than 70 million observations made on board ships. While there are many gaps in this record, it has been used to construct a reliable measure of global warming.

However, they have recently reanalysed the bias in the early observations which used canvas and wooden buckets to collect samples of seawater. This work has led to an upward revision of the temperatures between 1856 and 1940 of between one and four tenths of a degree Celsius. Compared with an overall warming in the record of

about half a degree, this correction is substantial.

On land, climatologists have gone to great lengths to ensure that the observed warming is, indeed, global and not a local effect of built-up areas. They are now satisfied that the Earth as a whole has warmed up by little over half a degree Celsius in the past 100 years.

This agreement would be reassuring, but for one snag — the measurements made from satellites. Ever since the early 1960s it has been recognised that if equipment on orbiting weather satellites could pro-

vide reliable measurements of surface temperatures, then this would be the best way of providing genuine global coverage.

The technique of measuring temperatures from satellites relies on the fact that the amount of sunlight absorbed

in the Earth's atmosphere and at its surface, and the amount of heat radiated back into space, is in balance. Because the amount of heat radiated depends on the temperature of the atmosphere and surface beneath, it should be possible to obtain accurate observations of the Earth's temperature by measuring the amount of outgoing radiation for any part of the globe.

Weather satellites use sophisticated instruments to measure upwelling radiation. These sensitive devices, known as radiometers, scan the Earth's surface and detect the tiny amounts of energy radiated at different infra-red and microwave wavelengths.

Using infra-red radiometers, it is possible to make independent observations at four levels in the atmosphere below ten kilometres. Microwave radiometers are able only to sort out two levels, but have the huge advantage that they can see through clouds. Clouds are efficient emitters of infra-red radiation, and can play havoc with temperature measurements by infra-red radiometers.

Weather satellites have carried microwave radiometers since 1979. Using measurements made by these instruments, Roy Spencer, of the NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, Alabama, and John

Christy, of the University of Alabama, have produced a 15-year series for changes in the temperature of the lower atmosphere.

The intriguing feature of this work is that, unlike the ground-based observations, the satellite record shows no significant warming or cooling trend. So which results provide the best estimates of climatic change?

Doubts about the accuracy of the satellite work centre on subtle features concerning the timing of their orbits and possible drift in the calibration of their instruments. But where the measurements from space can be compared with ground-based readings, the agreement between the two sets of data is extremely high. These comparisons have been conducted over the United States, where there has been little evidence of warming of the climate during this century.

Are satellites and ground-based observations measuring the same thing? The satellite observations provide a measure of the temperature of the bottom slice of atmosphere centred on a level of about three kilometres (10,000ft). While day-to-day fluctuations at ground level will differ from what is happening throughout

the lower atmosphere, in terms of measuring long-term trends the two sets of measurements should be compatible, though there may be differences during the winter and early spring over Siberia and northern Canada. In these regions, intensely cold air collects close to the ground, while at higher levels the air is much warmer. If, however, the westerly winds in the northern hemisphere are stronger than normal, then the air gets stirred up more and the temperature near the ground rises.

An increase in westerly winds could be part of a climate response to the build up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, or it could be part of a natural fluctuation.

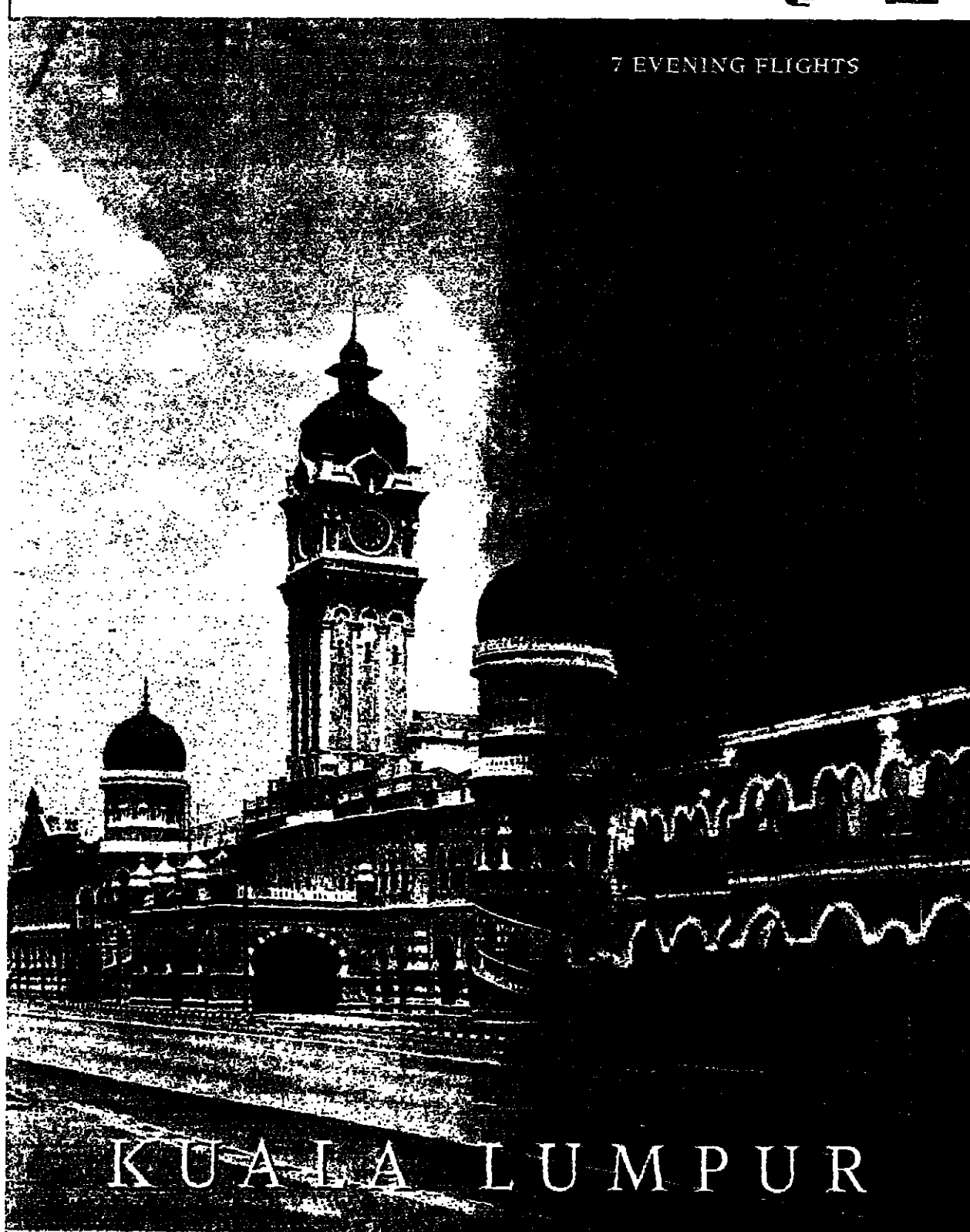
John Christy and Richard McNider, at the University of Alabama, have examined the 15-year satellite record to find an explanation for the variations of as much as 0.6 degrees Celsius over periods of a few

months to a few years. They find that more than two thirds of the variance can be attributed to major changes in the sea surface temperatures in the tropic Pacific. Much of the remaining changes can be linked to two substantial cooling events associated with the eruption of the volcano El Chichón in Mexico in 1992, and Mount Pinatubo in 1991.

When these effects are removed from the satellite temperature record most of the fluctuations are ironed out. What remains may be a better measure of how the atmosphere has reacted to the build-up of greenhouse gases and does show a slight warming. But this slow upward drift is only about a quarter of the figure predicted by the global climatic models which are now accepted as providing the best estimate of the impact of the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. We urgently need to establish why the difference exists.

malaysia

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Anjana Ahuja on a brain-teaser

Quantum theory by a whisker

The best-known character in the absurd world of quantum physics is Schrödinger's cat, created 60 years ago in a famous thought experiment. John Gribbin, a determinedly populist science writer more usually found on the pages of *New Scientist*, tackled this nameless and genderless feline in his 1984 book *In Search of Schrödinger's Cat*. Now he delves into the next generation of quantum theories in its sequel, *Schrödinger's Kittens and the Search for Reality*.

Gribbin describes the original experiment like this: a room contains a cat and a box. The box, which is divided into halves by a sliding partition, contains an electron. Therefore the electron must be in one half of the box or the other. Outside the box, a detector is wired up to a supply of poisonous gas. If the electron escapes, the gas will be released and the cat as dead as *Monty Python's* parrot.

Suddenly, one half of the box flies open. There is a one in two chance that the electron will be released, and thus that the cat will be poisoned. Common sense tells us that either the cat gets it, or it doesn't. But, according to orthodox quantum theory, the

cat is neither dead nor alive (or both?) until someone looks in the room.

This conundrum is developed further by bringing the kittens of the book's title to life. Imagine shunting these unfortunate animals into separate space capsules linked by a tube. The tube is partitioned as in the original experiment and contains one electron, and is linked to the usual lethal gas supply. The tube is suddenly severed and kittens A and B fly off to planets at opposite ends of the universe.

At the point of severance, one of the kittens will die. The capsules land and aliens peek at kitten A. As soon as the observation is made (the kitten is either dead or alive) the fate of kitten B is determined. This would require an instantaneous "signal" between planets. Einstein called the idea "spooky".

This book will appeal to all those who have attempted to understand the quantum universe but gave up. Gribbin's light and engaging style allows the quantum universe to remain delightfully absurd.

• Schrödinger's Kittens and the Search for Reality, by John Gribbin, is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson (£18.99).

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Friday

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT
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YOU CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE IT

In harmony with Irving

Valerie Grove
reports on a
daughter's
memories of the
man who set an
era to music

When Ellin Mackay, a fair and slender New York Catholic heiress, fell in love in 1924 with Irving Berlin, the short, dark immigrant Jewish songwriter, her parents were not pleased. They tried everything: gentle pressure, Grand Tour of Europe, debauched distractions. Ellin was not to be deflected. She smelt blossom when the trees were bare: she wasn't sick, she was just in love.

One morning in January 1926, having played poker with the Algonquin gang and lost, Berlin telephoned Mary: would she get married in the morning? She would. So Broadway married Old New York, the tabloids pursued the elopement with glee, and Ellin was disinherited of her \$10 million fortune. But their marriage turned out a good one: "They were two against the world."

When their baby, Mary Ellin, arrived the next year, Berlin wrote *Blue Skies* for her. (Skies were not so blue a year later, when their baby son, Irving Jr, died on Christmas Day.) On Berlin's 40th birthday, in 1928, he wrote: "I hope I live long enough to buy Mary Ellin her first ice-cream cone." In fact he lived to be 101, and Mary Ellin Barrett has just written *Irving Berlin: A Daughter's Memoir*, about the century's most prolific songwriter and his legacy of love songs and tunes that still makes us want to face the music and dance.

Mrs Barrett lives on the Upper West Side, in a Parisian-style apartment with one of Irving Berlin's pianos in the hallway. Her New York resonates with memories of her childhood: Broadway, Tin Pan Alley, the Plaza Hotel, Lindy's, the songwriters' gathering place; the East River, into which her father once fell, clutching the pennies he earned on his newspaper round, in the days when his family, newly arrived from Siberia, would put him out on the fire-escape to sleep when the nights were stiflingly hot.

She had a charmed childhood. Songwriting made her father fabulously wealthy, and even though he lost his fortune in the crash of 1929, her mother's trust fund saw them through and the post-Depression years saw a new flowering of light, lifting, easy songs: *Let's Have Another Cup of Coffee*, *Isn't This a Lovely Day*, *Cheek to Cheek*. They lived in Sutton Place, weekending in Montauk, Long Island; sometimes they went to Hollywood where the pale, ethereal Mrs Berlin could be privately scathing about showbiz people, although always polite and lady-like in public.

"My father, knowing what she was thinking, whom she was inwardly calling 'a fool', common or worse, was trying himself to do the polite thing,



Mary Ellin with her father, Irving Berlin, celebrating her 19th birthday in a nightclub. "I had the most fun life any child could have," she says.

Berlin's legacy of love songs and tunes still makes us want to face the music and dance

which was to get on with these people who held the power."

Although her parents' friends included Joan Crawford, Fred Astaire and Harpo Marx, Mary Ellin was kept away from the bright lights and encouraged to be an earnest schoolgirl. Typically, as a father brought up in poverty seeing his own children brought up in riches, Berlin "was very focused on my education. I had a responsibility to make something of myself and he was very very upset when I went through a difficult stage and my marks dropped in school."

"I had the most interesting, charming parents and the most fun life any child could have," Mary Ellin writes. But this made school friendships difficult: "My classmates set out to humble me." There was also the question of "social anti-Semitism" — skating and dancing clubs that did not accept the daughter of a Jew.

When embarking on her own career as a writer and journalist (she was *Cosmopolitan's* book critic for years, and wrote three novels) Mary Ellin found it an encouragement, however proud of him she was, to be always "Irving Berlin's daughter". And when, before she left college she became infatuated with a Catholic war hero, and married him against Berlin's wishes — subconsciously re-enacting her parents' disapproved-of romance, "although I knew full well that he

was not like my father, or anything near it" — she was quickly divorced and became "Irving Berlin's Divorced Daughter".

Where did the Berlin genius come from? Mary Ellin cannot fathom it. "He had an extraordinary ear for music and for words, especially for the vernacular. And he arrived just at the beginning of the era of the

public was no longer buying what he was selling. His last published hit was in 1968, by which time he was 80: songwriters like Simon and Garfunkel and Stephen Sondheim were writing a different kind of music.

He became prey to depression, and more and more reclusive. "But I understand that more as I'm working my way through my sixties," says Mary Ellin. "He would still have ideas for songs and lyrics and shows. But your energy diminishes, and God knows he was prodigious with his energies. Even the songs that seemed so effortless were the result of long nocturnal struggles at the piano. He had

a terrible time sleeping." When Mary Ellin turned 60, her father said: "I wish I'd known at your age I was going to live so long. I'd have taken better care of myself." He outlived the copyrights on many of his own songs. "He was extremely aggravated when he was 96, in 1986, and *Alexander's Rag Time Band* went into the public domain: it was his theme song." Each year part of Mary Ellin's and her sisters' legacy slips from their grasp. In the year 2017 *White Christmas* will move into the public domain in America. And in 2002 Mary Ellin will have to say goodbye to her understandable favourite, *Blue Skies*.

Joanna Pitman recalls an extraordinary meeting in Tokyo

One day in late April four years ago, I climbed the stairs of a shabby concrete apartment block in an undistinguished Tokyo suburb to meet Shoko Asahara, the leader of the Aum Shinrikyo sect which is suspected of having planted the poison gas that killed ten people on the Tokyo subway a week ago.

Asahara was engaged in his daily afternoon chore of being worshipped by the faithful. As he sat in state on a giant pink pouf, greeting disciples and visitors while the queue snaked slowly forward, I suddenly realised why his right leg was extended before him on a velvet stool. Each worshipper, as he or she approached the master, knelt down to kiss a proffered big toe.

I decided to stick to the rather more congenial and traditional method of Japanese greeting, and hastily dug out a business card.

Asahara is the leader of an eight-year-old religious sect loosely linked to Buddhism. It claims 10,000 followers have pledged their devotion to the guru by drinking, at an initiation ceremony, a small amount of what they are told is his blood and by placing all their worldly assets in his spiritual care — and temporal bank account.

Enthroned on his capacious cushion, the master nodded slowly as the faithful bestowed their pucker greetings one by one on the toe. His long black hair and beard were piled up on an ample stomach, swathed in voluminous pink satin. He gave the impression of a well-fed bulldog.

"Welcome to the heavenly light of Aum Shinrikyo. I feel yours are positive waves," he intoned when I reached the front of the queue. It was a short interview, as Asahara switched back into his trance as soon as he discovered my journalistic intentions.

One of his disciples drew me aside, a limp and callow young man dressed in white satin, who told me that the

A god who eats napkins



Shoko Asahara: his sect is suspected of mass murder

master was going blind. He had apparently over exerted himself practising the austerities he preaches to his flock. Celestial voices had advised him to take plenty of rest.

But Asahara, it is said, has performed miracles in his time. Another disciple, 27-year-old Mahamaya, was ushered forward to explain. "The master has performed many enlightened acts. For example, he sat in a tank of water submerged without air for over 12 hours. Of course, he survived because he has mystic powers. We're training eventually to be able to do that too." Just why she wanted

to, she would not say. Mahamaya, who discarded her name along with all her worldly possessions when she joined, used to work in the personnel department of a chemical company. She became a disciple when she heard of the movement from a friend who claimed to have found "peace and a spiritual heaven". Her husband and two daughters, aged four and 18 months, had also joined the ranks of the faithful.

Her children were going through an early induction course in meditation. The four-year-old sat in a trance

beside her mother, listening to New Age music on a Sony Walkman. One day she, too, wants to be able to perform levitation, like the guru.

And one day she might learn how to imitate his cotton-eating talents. A photograph in the meditation room showed Asahara apparently swallowing length after length of white fabric. According to Aum, his record stood at four metres.

One of the spiritually enlightening feats of asceticism he preaches is the suppression of the appetite. Taken to a restaurant, the master has been much admired for his ability to eschew the temptations of food altogether, but to make a good job of the tablecloth and napkins.

Asahara appeared on that day more comical than charismatic or malign, yet his power was evident in the utter docility of his followers.

The adult faithful I met that day were all intelligent Japanese in their twenties and thirties, apparently happy to be exiled from society — literally so, for they are permitted only rare and controlled excursions into the real world. Many had a dreamy quality, recognisable in those who have lost the ability or the will to think for themselves.

"New religions" such as this are legion in Japan, all of them remarkable for the enormous wealth they seem to have no difficulty in amassing and for the utter simplicity of their religious doctrines. This is because their initial attraction, and function is social, providing havens for those who crave intensive group involvement but are not members of large corporations, families or other groups that bestow social acceptability. Asahara's devotees probably have no idea they are social pariahs, for the master will have stepped up his teachings that it is the outside world that is evil, and only he, the living god, is good and right.

The dark side of celebrity

And do stars not bleed?

EVERY trend has its backlash, every stone has an underside, usually crawling with unprepossessing insects. We briefly glimpsed this weekend the underside of one of our most infuriating modern cults, that of celebrity.

And no, this is not the usual whine about the press "building people up to knock them down". This is more sinister. It is the ultimate extension of a culture which treats certain human beings as stylised dolls: it is the birth of a belief that because showbiz people are "not like us" they don't have human feelings or rights, either.

And again, no: this is not another moan about invasion of showbiz privacy. It is far more serious. For a group of people have somehow persuaded themselves that if an individual is in showbusiness, it is therefore more excusable to get drunk, surround that person in the street in the dark, pull a sharp knife, demand money, grab their personal belongings, sneer and terrify and threaten. The thinking is that if you do this and get caught, then you are the real victim. You should

be pitied because the publicity brought on by assaulting a celebrity has put you under "pressure". This is, of course, the Elizabeth Hurley case. Three teenage girls were found guilty on Friday of the above mugging: they await sentence, and their families and supporters are outraged. Not at them, of course: at their victim. "Who does she think she is anyway?" asks one relative. "Just an actress. She put on a good show in the witness box." Mrs Guerin, mother of the 18-year-old, spat: "Before this case, a lot of people did not know who Miss Hurley was. My daughter has made her famous, and this is a high price to pay."

The solicitor, Jonathan Cummins, asked whether he thought his clients were treated differently because a celebrity was involved, said: "It is difficult to avoid that conclusion." Ah, shame: let them go. They only menaced an actress, after all. Not a person. If only the girl who apparently knifed a security man in Cardiff on Friday — he is, as I write, in intensive care — had had the sense to stab an actor instead,

she would have won herself more sympathy.

This attitude is worth noting because it is not rare. Certainly, some onlookers in the Hurley case will have been exaggeratedly partisan: people, especially kind-hearted elderly people, get sentimental. "Ah, she's a lovely-looking girl," they say. "Isn't that terrible! With her pretty face!"

A larger faction, though, will be echoing the sneers of the muggers' relatives. "Who does she think she is... pots of money, designer dresses, Hugh Grant... posh accent in the witness-box... setting herself up against those poor underclass kids. She could spare the money, for God's sake..."

One newspaper contrasted Miss Hurley's glittering future in Hollywood with the dead-end lives of these, admittedly pathetic, girl thugs, quoting the solicitor on their "unfortunate family circumstances". The clear implication, which will not be lost on the victim, is that she was grinding the faces of the poor simply by reporting the attack.

They forget that even an actress, even a model, is made of flesh, which shrinks in terror from the point of a knife held to her stomach. Even an actress can be inwardly disabled for a while by such a moment: made nervous of walking alone, mistrustful of humanity and unaccountably tearful.

When muggers don't get much money, they steal your dignity and confidence. It can be done quite easily, especially with a knife or gun: even to a star of the gossip columns and Oscar ceremonies. It is quite possible that the publicity itself gave her grief: Miss Hurley may, believe it or not, have hated appearing in that witness-box to face the hate in those dull young eyes.

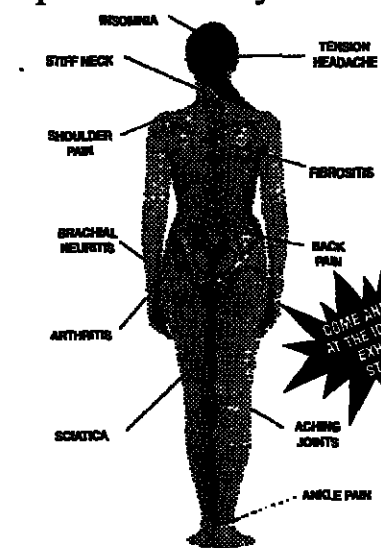
But no, none of this will wash with the jeersers. "Who does she think she is... she ought to be glad of the publicity... my daughter made her famous." It is a nasty mind-set but, admit it, a recognisable one. And, indeed, after one *Hello!* profile too many, it can be rather tempting. But if we sincerely want to stay human, we have to remember that even icons breathe and bleed.



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Matthew Parris



■ If you learn to listen carefully enough, you can hear the sound of life passing

In the dead of night last week, I awoke suddenly and for no reason. I have been working perhaps a little too hard and sleeping fitfully. It was pitch dark and I was wide awake: two hours still before dawn.

Amusing, because sleep is precious. I was thirsty. You know where everything is in your own flat, so without switching on the light, I padded gingerly to the bathroom, filled a cup with water, and sat on the edge of the bath to drink. Sleep fell away.

Blind people don't miss much. The immediacy of vision crowds out components of our perception which are more important. When the light comes on, an invisible monitor turns down the volume of our other senses: but sound, touch, and smell go very deep, and we think best with our eyes shut. Sit in the dark for a while and the deeper elements of our senses begin to swell.

I did so, on the edge of the bath. I became aware of new noises, as though someone was turning up all the sound knobs. All at once I could hear the faint, low, continuous rumble of London in the night: the blurring of a million distant noises: factories, trains, and cars. Now I could hear the very slightest of hums from my stereo in the sitting room. I must have left it on stand-by.

The compressor working in my fridge was just audible from the kitchen, and so — amazingly — was the gentle, unfocused tick-tick of the quartz kitchen clock. From outside I could hear the Thames at high tide, whispering on the wall beneath.

I could hear what you might call the central nervous system of my apartment block: a swish of water in the pipes, an electrical singing in the wires, the whirr of the central-heating pump upstairs, and a creak here and there as small temperature changes triggered tiny movements in the building's structure. Every sound, every growl, every little murmur, spoke (as Hardy put it) to my intelligence.

I swallowed a gulp of water. Loud within my head was the swish of the liquid, the pop and crackle as the air passage to the inner ear temporarily closed, and the sound of moving muscles in my throat. Turning my head, I heard two sharp cracks in the vertebrae, and a low grinding as the head moved. My stomach rumbled as the water went down. Breathing, I listened to each breath: the air supply whistling up and down.

I replaced the cup. Ever since smashing my right elbow when I was six, that joint, when flexed, has made a muffled wrenching sound. Usually, it can't be heard: now it seemed loud. "It must have been doing this all day, every day, for

the past 39 years," I thought. I flexed both elbows and felt, beneath the scars on my right elbow, the minimal, usually unnoticeable resistance as compared with the left. The scars seemed to rise to my fingers, impostors on the skin, silky to the touch.

Running my fingertips up towards my shoulders, I could feel the beginnings of a flabbiness around the top of the arms, such as comes with middle age; and that slight paperiness of the skin. I swung one knee, then the other, and listened to the barely audible grinding in both joints. All those marathons I have run, all those thousands of miles of training, and never a failure in either delicate, complicated joint!

I sat absolutely still in the darkness. All at once I was aware of a sound louder than these others. It had been there all along, but I had not focused upon it. It was a singing in my head: that weird, discordant electrical noise as of transformers in a sub-station or a high-voltage overhead power cable. White noise.

As I concentrated, it seemed to swell, to become almost deafening. I was listening to the white noises generated by my own electronics. And now I could hear my blood, too, coursing through the artery near each ear. I could hear my heart, strong and regular, each smooth, powerful pulse followed by a gush past the ears.

What a piece of work is a man. I would have rejected the design outright. I would have called for something solid and straightforward to fix. "Too clever by half," I would have said. "All of that 'black box' technology, that super-sophisticated electronics, those egg-shell-delicate parts. Sacrifice sophistication. Design me something durable, robust."

Yet the machine sitting on that bath's edge was both. Man is an almost miraculous combination of fragility with resilience. It doesn't break thinking about it. "You better not look down, or you might not keep on flying," B.B. King used to sing.

It seems to me that human viability is an impossibility sustained by inattention. We must not eavesdrop on those noises too often or for too long. That singing in the wires should stay, mostly, a secret. I switched on the light and it fled.

As well as the flat's, I could hear my own central nervous system at work

Not every EU state would be in a single currency, and the resulting tension would be destructive

Two Europes, with different needs

The European single currency is an explosive issue. It has already split the Conservative Party, even given a Prime Minister who is deeply sceptical about it. It will almost certainly split the Labour Party if it is in power when the decisions have to be made. Worse than that — save from the point of view of extreme Euro-sceptics — it could easily fracture the European Union itself. It could split the European atom.

The best expectation is that the time of decision will not come until 1999. The main commitments were made in the Maastricht treaty of 1991. Britain negotiated an opt-out, but also negotiated a role in the planning process, so we are still involved in shaping a single currency we may never join. There are only minor decisions to be taken at next year's inter-governmental conference. European foreign and defence policy and future powers of the European Parliament look as though they will be the contentious issues.

The first possible date for a single currency would be 1997, but there is no practical chance of that target being met. If there ever is a single currency — and the proposal has proved an impossibility before — it will come at the last date in the Maastricht timetable, which is 1999. There is no chance that all 15 countries of the European Union will be able to join a single currency, even at that point. Perhaps only Germany, Britain and Luxembourg would be able by then to meet the full convergence requirements, although some other countries might be close enough.

However, there is a real possibility that a single currency will then be introduced by an inner core of European countries, under German leadership. That single currency would be based on the mark, and the core countries would certainly include The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg and Austria. The group

would probably include France if Edouard Balladur were elected president. Jacques Chirac is also committed to a single currency in 1999, but he has committed himself to a number of other and incompatible policies as well. His policy may be preferable to Balladur's because it is much less credible. Belgium is very far from meeting the financial requirements, and would be a burden on the single currency. Yet the Belgian economy is relatively small, and the core group might choose to carry the Belgians.

Whether Britain joined this single currency group could well depend on the result of the next general election. If the Conservatives win it, Britain will not join a single currency in the next parliament. John Major is known to be opposed to doing so, though he has kept his European negotiating position open. The majority of the parliamentary party is against it. Unfortunately, the Conservatives are not likely to be in a position to decide the matter.

The Labour Party has formally adopted a policy in favour of joining, if the industrial and economic conditions are right. Tony Blair does therefore lean towards joining, but he also leans towards a referendum. At present, British public opinion seems to be more sceptical than the Labour Party's policy, so a referendum would probably keep Britain out. There is also the traditional Labour concern about high unemployment, and a single currency would probably lead to more people losing their jobs.

Other European countries might

wish to join because their own currencies have been so untrustworthy. They might see a single currency as a way of restoring financial discipline, stabilising their currencies and reducing their interest rates. However, their economic performance would in some cases be far too remote from the convergence criteria agreed at Maastricht. Germany has every reason to police these criteria. A single currency would be acceptable to the German people only if it were almost as good as the mark and

undervalued, with above average interest rates and a drift to inflation. There is already the problem of the lira in comparison with the mark, and it would probably be worse in comparison to the ecu. Chronic weakness of their currencies would be the price the rim countries would have to pay. Though their industry would benefit from the competitiveness of low costs, unemployment might be high.

The core currency would be highly valued, and would become a substantial reserve currency for the world, tending to rise against the dollar and probably to hold steady against the yen. In terms of purchasing power parity, the core of Europe would not be competitive with the United States. The core countries would suffer the traditional disadvantages of an overvalued reserve currency, as Britain did in the 1920s and again in the 1950s. Germany is already the highest cost industrial country in the world, losing jobs to many competitors, including Britain. Jobs would be lost in all the core countries. France would probably suffer the highest structural unemployment; French unemployment is already around 12 per cent, and might be expected to rise to 15 per cent or even higher. The single currency could destroy the French economy.

This Europe, with a single-currency core and a multi-currency rim, would therefore be a region with deflation built into the core and inflation built into the rim. Could two such groups hold together? Each

group would have its own problems, but they would be the opposite of each other. The core would resent cheap imports coming from the rim, adding to unemployment. The rim countries would resent the danger to their currencies of the single currency, which would so obviously be preferred by foreign funds. This conflict of interest would produce hostility.

There would inevitably be a political reaction. The British might not want the single currency if they had chosen not to join, but Italy and Spain would certainly resent a group from which they had been deliberately excluded. This would, in the considered view of the British Government, fundamentally change the whole nature of the European Union. It would break the central ethos of Europe, which has been one of broad unity in development.

The Mexican example is a sobering one, as is that of the European exchange-rate mechanism. Mexico has much better financial figures than Italy, yet the attempt to fix the peso to the dollar has nearly bankrupted Mexico, and also — a much better-kept secret — nearly bankrupted several major US banks, which were as much overexposed to Mexican debt as Barings was to Tokyo derivatives.

If Germany were to try to shoulder the whole burden of the finances of the 15, the new currency would be overcommitted and underpowered, a dangerous cause of instability. If Germany becomes impatient and creates a single currency for the German and French-speaking nations, it will impoverish and disunite Europe. The British Government's fears are fully justified, but it is hard to get through the excitement of Euro-rhetoric to a recognition of the true dangers. And even that leaves out of the count the great political difficulty that Europe cannot have a single money without having a single budget as well.

William Rees-Mogg

almost as much under the control of the Bundesbank. To bring in the Mediterranean group of Greece, Italy and Spain would lead the new currency with their commitments. Germany would find it hard to carry them. The core itself is likely to be a group of six countries, with one or two small neighbouring states, such as Denmark, as possible additions.

The economic consequences could be damaging both for the single-currency core and for the independent-currency rim. The rim countries might find that their currencies had been labelled failures, as second or third class. This would mean that the currencies would tend to be

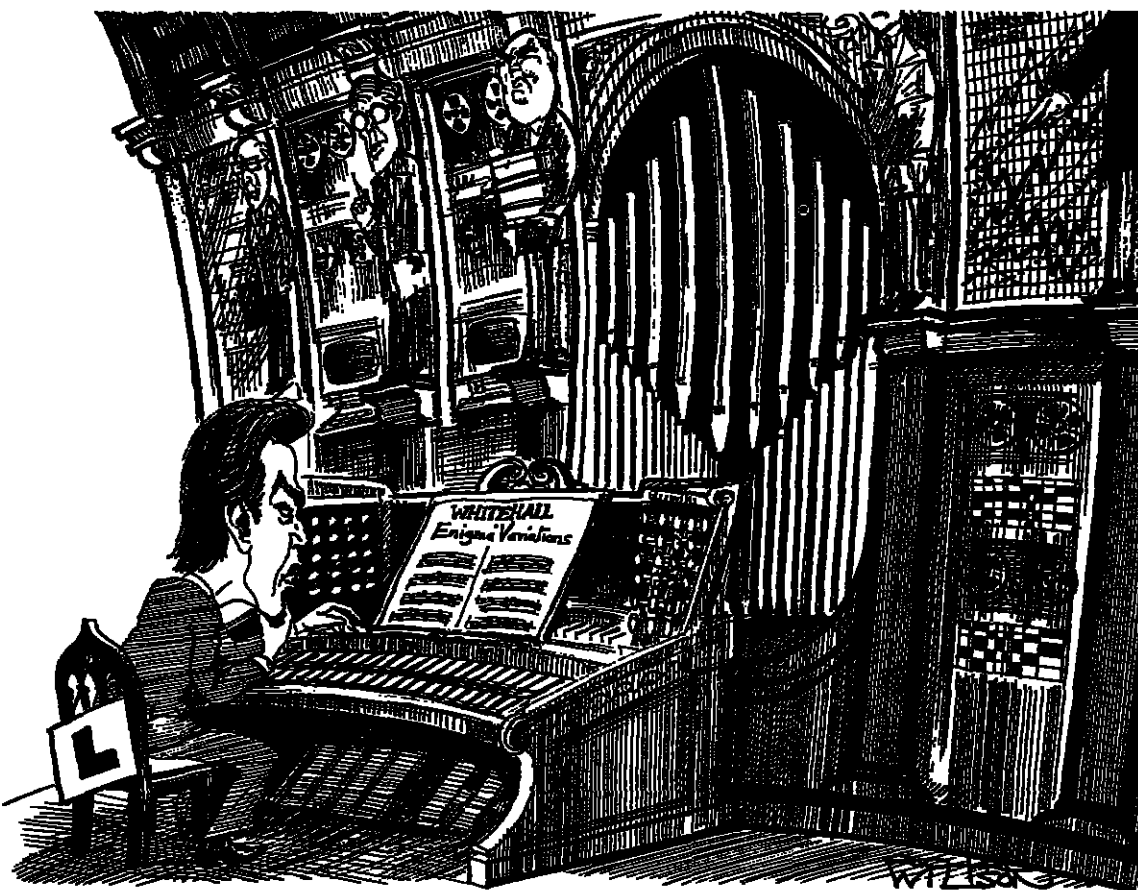
Innocence and experience

Peter Riddell says Tony Blair's fresh-faced team still has much preparation to do

Winning the election is only a beginning. "Where do you want to start, Minister?" said Andrew. Where indeed? So wrote Barbara Castle about her first meeting in October 1964 with Sir Andrew Cohen, her Permanent Secretary at Overseas Development. That question is not being asked enough now. A strategy for government is as important as a campaign plan to win power, as Bill Clinton has discovered to his cost over the past two years.

Tony Blair knows that his party is not yet ready for office. That is the main reason why last week he unexpectedly put his party on a pre-election war footing. This had less to do with the slim chance of an election before autumn 1996 than with the need to prevent Labour being complacent and to bind together his own prickly chief lieutenants, John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook, by giving them new overseeing roles.

Labour has a lot to do. This does not just mean producing policies. In that respect, an incoming Blair team would be better prepared than Labour was in 1964 or 1974. In 1963-64, Harold Wilson highlighted general themes such as industrial modernisation and a few eye-catching policies such as the Open University. But much of the rest was back-anteregate. Richard Crossman noted in his diaries that about a central Labour pledge, on rent controls, there was only "one slim series of notes in the files". In 1974, few in the leadership expected Labour to win, and the years in opposition had been dominated by internal party rows and the first stirrings of Bennism, with a party statement on public ownership of the



25 largest companies being openly rejected by Wilson.

The preparations are more thorough now. Following the approval of the new Clause Four at the end of April there will be a deluge of proposals. There are tricky issues about targeting of benefits, balancing commitments to Scottish devolution with the interests of England, and the future of grant-maintained schools and hospital trusts. As the MORI poll in *The Times* last Friday showed, most people still think a Labour government would raise income tax. The middle classes, in particular, remain worried about whether Labour would keep its promises.

As important is whether Labour has any idea of what power involves, of how to deal with inevitable shocks and sterling crises. Even in 1964, after

13 years in opposition, three-fifths of Wilson's Cabinet at least had served in the Attlee Government. But this time nearly half the top leadership team, including the leader and the Shadow Chancellor, were not even MPs when Labour was last in power.

Just six out of the top 20 held even junior office, and in most cases it was on the periphery, although Jack Cunningham had a spell in Downing Street as James Callaghan's parliamentary private secretary. Of those who were not MPs, Jack Straw does at least understand how Whitehall works, having served as special adviser to Barbara Castle and to Peter Shore. The Shadow Cabinet is very

patchy, the product of annual elections based on popularity and faction as much as ability. As one experienced party leader puts it, "apart from Tony, who understands about power, most of the other people don't know what's going to hit them."

Some should adapt quickly, but there are obvious weak links. Including some former junior ministers. It is hard to see Ron Davies or Joan Lester surviving long at the top. Under Labour rules, Mr Blair should pick his first Cabinet from the previous Shadow Cabinet. But he may bend this at the margin, and then follow Wilson's example from 1964-66, when half a dozen failures were dropped within two years. Labour has talent in its middle ranks. But inexperience is apparent in a naivety about what can be achieved in practice — for

instance, about how much parliamentary time the proposed constitutional reforms would take — as well as in an unfamiliarity with how Whitehall works. The existence of select committees may have ameliorated that. Labour is also less suspicious of Whitehall than it was. There would also be initial goodwill from many civil servants.

But a limited amount can be done in advance. Thanks to an agreement between Neil Kinnock, John Major and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, after the 1992 election, formal contacts between shadow spokesmen and permanent secretaries can start from January next year — whereas previously it began only six months before the final date for the end of the parliament. However, a good deal of informal contact is already under way. Academic commentators such as Sir Peter Hennessy, and former permanent secretaries such as Sir Peter Kemp believe that preparations now are a priority for Mr Blair. Mr Straw has suggested induction courses for ministers.

Mr Blair knows he has to address these issues, though he has not done so yet. He is rightly wary of Wilsonian tinkering with the machinery of government. The idea of turning the Lord Chancellor's Department into a Ministry of Justice will be dropped, and the proposal for a Ministry for Women will turn into a Minister for Women. Beyond that, Mr Blair has to decide what he will do with the Prime Minister's Office, the role of the Policy Unit and of special advisers.

Mr Prescott said in an interview on Saturday that what concerns Labour now is not winning a first election, of which he is confident, but winning the second election: "how do we successfully implement what we promise?" That is not just being realistic about promises, important though that is. It is also about knowing how to use power. It is no good saying it will be all right on the night. Unless Labour thinks now about its legislative priorities, and about how it would tackle a crisis in the financial markets, a Blair government could be knocked off course, as its predecessors were in the 1960s and 1970s.

Kurt reception

BARONESS THATCHER is shortly to be seen in some rather controversial company. She is to head a battalion of former world leaders on a new foray into the Gulf, which includes the disgraced former Secretary-General of the UN, Kurt Waldheim — who is *persona non grata* in the United States.

The former President of Austria became an international pariah over allegations about his record in the Second World War. But he will be one of a clutch of ex-leaders helping to draw up a blueprint for the economic future of the Middle East. His presence is not likely to go down well with the Israelis, towards whom Thatcher has long been friendly.

The group, which will convene for the Gulf Economic Forum in Bahrain, will also include F.W. de Klerk, now one of Nelson Mandela's deputies. The wiseheads have been asked to present a "new agenda for finance in the Middle East" to the region's government and business leaders.

The content of Lady Thatcher's address is not being revealed until she speaks to the delegates, but it is

understood that she will focus on privatisation in the Gulf, and put political, economic and financial prospects in a global context.

"We have a very positive relationship with Lady Thatcher through the governments over here," says Ken Jamieson, the forum's general manager. "She is very busy but this seems to have been something she wanted to take part in."

OH DEAR I OVERSLEPT AND MISSED THE TODAY PROGRAMME



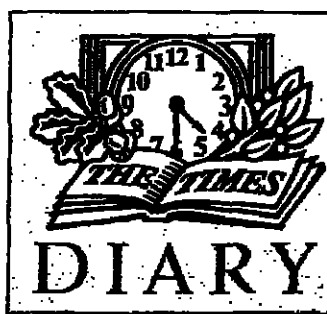
● Tony Blair was dining at Lincoln's Inn last week when a female barrister leaned forward across the table and asked if anyone had ever mentioned that he had a look of the film star Kevin Costner about him. "I wish I did look like him," replied Blair. "Then I would definitely have no problem winning the next election."

Cheers, mate

THE BARMY ARMY — the high-spirited cheerleaders for the England cricket team during the Ashes series this winter — are seeking to make themselves official. They achieved an ambivalent official status in Australia with their incessant chanting and ribbing of opposition supporters, but not every-one back home approves of such boisterousness.

Now they are planning to issue membership cards and to organise a trip to South Africa when England tour next winter. And for this summer's visit by the West Indies they are looking for sponsorship on T-shirts and caps, which they are negotiating to sell in shops.

"We would like to be able to put something back into the game, perhaps by paying for coaching for youngsters," says David Peacock,



one of their noisy number. "We are looking for sponsorship, but probably not from a brewery if kids are going to be wearing them. We want to dissociate ourselves from any idea of cricket hooligans."

Beak careful

NORMAN LAMONT is getting a little witty. His recent letter on the page opposite, saying that he had identified a flock of exotic birds in Richmond Park as rose-ringed parakeets, seems to have won the passionate birdwatcher a whole new group of fans — which leaves him a touch uneasy.

"I even had one woman writing to me because she was doing some research and wanted to know if there had been parakeets at Non-

such Palace in the 16th century," he tells me. "I am not an expert on parakeets, and I am certainly not an expert on parakeets in the 16th century. It's faintly ridiculous."

● As exquisite smells delighted guests at the opening of "Heavenly Scent", an exhibition at the Royal College of Art chronicling the history of perfume, the college Rector, Professor Anthony Jones, was worried that the next event might not be quite so fragrant. "It's the students' degree show next. I just hope the beautiful smell lingers."

A cute accent

GORDON KAYE, whose ludicrous French accent in the TV series *Allo Allo* secured him a place in the annals of TV comedy history, is wrestling to perfect a similarly accomplished American twang.

He is rehearsing *Harvey* at the Shaftesbury Theatre, playing the role made famous on celluloid by James Stewart, of a man whose best friend is an invisible oft rabbit. He is being advised on his accent by an American actress. "The play will probably be described as six characters in search of an accent," he jokes. "There's not that much difference, I'm told, between



Kiss and don't tell: what did the boys get up to next?

a Yorkshire accent and an American one. But I did ten years with the worst French accent in the world, so I'm sure I can survive six months with the worst American one."

Shutters down

MICK ROCK, the appropriately named photographer of luminaries of the world of rock'n'roll, touched rationally on the subject of what isn't revealed in his new book *Mick Rock: A Photographic Record 1969-*

1980, launched at a London gallery last week.

"Oh, that's just boys kissing," he explained cheerfully of a picture of those ageing wild things Mick Jagger, Lou Reed and David Bowie cavorting at a party at the Dorchester. "I can't possibly tell you how the evening deteriorated after that. The people I photograph like me because I don't publish the more revealing shots."

P.H.S



JEUX SANS FRONTIERES

Britain is right to remain outside the new Schengenland

Over the weekend most of continental Europe became, at least in theory, a single immigration zone. Tourists and businessmen, immigrants and smugglers are now obliged to show their passports only once when entering any of the seven European Union countries that have abolished internal frontier formalities.

The seven signatories to the Schengen agreement have taken far longer than they expected to realise this Utopian dream. Computer breakdowns, airport layouts and police objections held up the implementation month after month. Even now, with the agreement in force, key countries such as France have got cold feet and are doing their best to plug the huge hole they now believe has been driven through their tight immigration and drug controls. Britain, from the start, said the plan was ill-advised, ill-conceived and ill-suited to an island. Border controls for this country will remain in force.

There is nothing wrong with the wish to make travel simpler. For years, police have been waving motorists through Europe's land frontiers, stopping the occasional tourist only if something seemed amiss. Customs posts are nowadays deserted, and on motorways between Belgium and The Netherlands only the different street furniture gives drivers any clue that they have crossed a frontier.

Integrationists, however, were determined to take this logic to its conclusion: if Europe was to be a single market, the movement of people must be as easy as between states in America or cantons in Switzerland. Not only must all checkpoints go, but not even a vestige of control or symbol of state authority must remain. They argued that borders were no deterrent to drug smugglers or illegal immigrants; those determined to slip across had only to sneak through the fields a hundred yards farther down the road.

None of this logic applies to an island. Anyone looking at a map of Britain would have no second thought on where to place the borders. The sea is still a greater deterrent to unauthorised entry than any number of bureaucrats. Britain has long implemented a common passport regime for European Community — and now European Economic Area — nationals; it has set up a blue, customs-free channel; and it has redesigned ferry ports to speed up transit. To maintain that the need to show a passport is a barrier to free movement is absurd. The need to carry an identity card at all times in most continental states constitutes a far greater inconvenience and limitation of personal freedom.

However visionary the dream, implementation of Schengen has become a nightmare. Police in some countries are now preparing to patrol an invisible frontier ten miles back from the border, stopping motorists at random for spot checks. A massive computer in Strasbourg is to keep track of all persons wanted in any of the seven countries, even for parking offences, bringing nearer the Big Brother state. Few officials can say how it will still be possible to book luggage through to a second destination inside Schengenland for passengers, such as the British, coming from outside the common external frontier, who must now clear immigration at the airport where they first land. And how are the costs for the main receiving airports to be divided?

If Britain were inside the new zone, Heathrow, the busiest international gateway in the world, would have to process all visas and police checks for passengers travelling via London to Lisbon, Nice or Stuttgart — a massive imposition. Seen from Belgium or Luxembourg, the abolition of borders that have no historical or geographical permanence makes sense: seen from London, such a step would be madness.

THE POWER OF PRIVATISATION

Falling electricity prices show that private ownership works

Last week's announcement of a new investigation into electricity pricing is obviously good news for Britain's power users. But, in the long run, it should also be welcome for the shareholders who will initially bear the brunt of the review. If Stephen Littlechild, head of the Office of Electricity Regulation (Ofreg), is radical enough in cutting prices, he could go a long way towards restoring public faith in the privatisation process, recently undermined by the rows over boardroom pay. And judging by this morning's new allegations about overcharging by water companies, his action could set a useful precedent for reopening the water pricing regime.

In monopoly utilities such as electricity and water, a regulator is needed to protect consumer interests. But if the regulator immediately confiscates all the benefits of efficiency through lower prices, management will soon become as sleepy as it was in the public sector. This dilemma has been addressed in Britain by setting prices for each industry several years in advance and then revising the formula after five years.

This system worked well enough in the two earliest and most popular privatisations — telephones and gas. But with electricity it ran into trouble, largely because Professor Littlechild grossly underestimated the savings that privatisation could yield. As a result, the electricity distributors' profits, dividends and shares (to say nothing of their managers' salaries) all rose extremely rapidly after privatisation.

They shot up again last August after Ofreg announced its new, supposedly tougher, price limits — and took off into the stratosphere this winter, when Trafalgar

House announced a hostile takeover bid for Northern Electric. Northern's directors responded by suddenly discovering £500 million in surplus cash which they could distribute to shareholders in special dividends — potential profits which Ofreg had apparently not noticed before. Suddenly, the laxity of Ofreg's price controls was clear for all to see. Professor Littlechild, who seemed more surprised than anyone by the enormous untapped resources revealed in the Northern bid, had no choice but to admit his error and reconsider prices for 1996-2000.

The big cuts in electricity prices that are now clearly justified will be unpopular in the industry, but there are several consolations for shareholders and managers in this affair. First, clear evidence that consumers are getting a fair deal out of the present structure of regulation should help to ward off further attacks on privatisation and windfall profits taxes under a Labour government. Secondly, the way that Trafalgar's takeover bid drew attention to Northern's excessive profits does credit to the operation of a free capital market. If hostile takeover bids for utilities had been forbidden, then Professor Littlechild would have remained in the dark about Northern's true profit potential and consumers would be paying higher prices for five years.

Finally, the whole episode underlines the enormous efficiencies that privatisation has achieved. All estimates of the possible benefits from putting utilities into private ownership have been dramatically exceeded — and the savings go on and on. What this experience illustrates is that privatisation, overseen by a pragmatic regulator, has succeeded beyond anyone's wildest dreams.

THE BRITISH HAVE COME

The Oscars show that British films have a worldwide market

If there were an Oscar for most embarrassing prediction, Colin Welland would have walked off with it in 1981 when he assured Hollywood that "The British are coming!" The British came, poked their head round the door and promptly disappeared. Since then, enough obituaries have been written for the British film industry to fill this newspaper many times over. So it is with some trepidation that we welcome Britain's 18 Oscar nominations for tonight's awards.

The British film industry, if some of its most vociferous spokesmen are to be believed, has gone through as many deaths and rebirths as the Buddha. Actually, there have simply been good years and bad years. Since the movie industry began, Britain has always produced a fine sprinkling of good actors, generally cast by Hollywood in supporting roles, and of good directors. In the less glamorous skills, such as cinematography and make-up, Britons have continually excelled.

Sometimes their work has been financed at home, sometimes abroad. These days film finance knows no boundaries, and it is foolish to try to define the British film industry simply by the nationality of its backers. If a screenwriter or director or actor emigrates to Hollywood — as many of the good ones do — they remain useful ambassadors for Britain. Talent needs to be followed, and the money, inevitably, is in Los Angeles. But this is nothing new: since it was set up by European immigrants, Hollywood has always raided Europe for

talent. The more British people are accepted and trusted by Hollywood, the easier it will be to raise money for British movies.

It is the distinctiveness of today's crop of British films that is so encouraging. Neither *The Madness of King George* nor *Tom and Viv*, nor even *Four Weddings and a Funeral*, needed to dilute their quintessentially Britishness to appeal to an American audience. Britain is never going to compete with Hollywood on *Jurassic Park* territory, so it may as well specialise in its strengths. These do not have to be restricted to Merchant Ivory-style period costume drama, though that niche is peculiarly well suited to the British. *Four Weddings* has shown that a comedy of manners can cross the Atlantic just as successfully.

These films also prove that massive Hollywood budgets are not necessary for box-office success. *Four Weddings* cost under \$7 million to make, but has already grossed more than \$200 million worldwide. Hollywood blockbusters usually rely on state-of-the-art special effects and top-billing actors, both of which come extremely expensive. Wit, however, which is what made *Four Weddings* such a hit, is a cheaper commodity and a national strength.

Nobody expects Britain to walk off with 18 Oscars tonight. The films may all turn out to be also-rans. But what really matters in Hollywood are box-office takings. Tonight's films have proved that there is a worldwide market for good British productions. Money talks, and Hollywood is listening.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Role of aid agencies in helping to rebuild Rwanda

From the Director General of Save the Children

Sir, Your excellent leader, "To rebuild Rwanda" (March 23), accurately explained the shortcomings of emergency relief in tackling a complex political crisis. Its conclusion, that the priority should now be material and technical assistance within Rwanda, together with concerted action against the architects of genocide, cannot be faulted. One would only add that food supplies to the refugees must be kept up while the obstacles to return are being removed.

Your analysis is in stark contrast to the crude backlash against overseas aid by critics, particularly in the US but also in Europe. Such critics have been quick to seize on failed aid strategies or peacekeeping interventions to diminish the whole concept of assistance to the poorest countries, rather than to examine the lessons and learn from experience.

In tackling the highly complex humanitarian emergencies which characterise the current era, aid alone is not enough. There must be an "aid plus" policy, which matches immediate humanitarian assistance with a longer-term development strategy, and which parallels humanitarianism with a commitment to political action on the underlying issues. For the foreseeable future, forms of aid including emergency relief, basic technical development and economic assistance will continue to be a necessity for many of the poorest countries.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HINTON,
Director General, Save the Children,
17 Grove Lane, SE5,
London March 24.

From the Secretary to HM Kigali V of Rwanda

Sir, His Majesty King Kigali V of Rwanda read your editorial with great interest. It rightly contends that aid money flowing into the refugee camps of Zaire has done little more than serve to buttress the perpetrators of genocide. It allows the murderers of thousands virtually to hold the refugees hostage and leaves the legitimate, broadly based Government in Kigali devoid of resources to rebuild the riven country.

On September 13 last year, in Vancouver, in a speech to the Canadian Red Cross, His Majesty said: "The international community is providing humanitarian relief to those the former Government has misled into thinking they must flee into fetid camps in Zaire or risk indiscriminate retaliation. The innocent are thus being used as a shield by the guilty."

In his year-long "peace tour" the King has been urging the international community, both private and governmental, to re-focus its assistance on exactly the basis urged in your excellent editorial. In a small way he is doing what you recommend. Through his charity, King Kigali's Children, he is raising money for the over 100,000 orphans of his sad country, and is anxious that such money will be spent on projects inside Rwanda.

Yours faithfully,
BONIFACE BENZINGE
(Secretary to HM Kigali V of Rwanda),
King Kigali's Children,
4177 Vacation Lane,
Arlington, Virginia 22207, USA,
March 25.

From the Director of Cafod

Sir, Your leading article of March 23 suggests that overseas aid agencies have been manipulated by Hutu extremists into pouring humanitarian aid into refugee camps outside the country rather than into the rebuilding of Rwanda.

The result, it claims, is that humanitarian aid has created semi-permanent, relatively comfortable camps ruled over by former murderers who have every interest in preventing repatriation of the two million refugees. Cafod and the other agencies cannot be expected to rule on which people in the camps are deserving of food aid. They are already funding projects inside Rwanda aimed at rebuilding the legal and civil infrastructure of that state. These projects are vital if normal life is to be restored to Rwanda, but this does not mean that we can turn our backs on the thousands of innocent people in camps around the border.

The suggestion that refugees remain in the camps because humanitarian aid has guaranteed good supplies of water, food and medical facilities conflicts with reports from aid workers in the camps who report food shortages, the growing threat from HIV/Aids and sporadic violence. People stay in refugee camps because they are afraid to go home. The job of the aid agencies is to keep them alive meanwhile.

Yours sincerely,
JULIAN FILOCHOWSKI,
Director, Cafod
(Catholic Fund for Overseas Development),
Romero Close, Stockwell Road, SW9,
London March 24.

Fact and myth on 'quickie' divorce

From Mr Bruce Lidington

Sir, I am concerned at the unequal welcome given to the Lord Chancellor's press release on divorce law reform in your editorial and report of March 20.

The idea of "quickie" divorce owes more to myth than fact. Although current divorce can be obtained within three or four months, this is rare. Cases involving children most commonly take 18 months at the least.

My reading of the proposed reforms suggests that a month is to be set aside for the parties to evaluate the consequences of divorce, once notice has been served. When this month has passed it will then be necessary to bring in the full litigious armoury of lawyers in order to complete a divorce within an 11-month schedule.

"Fault" allegations will not be essential to the central process, but are likely to be exploited to the full in the negotiation of ancillary matters. Mediation will be encouraged but will have no weight within the legal process.

Far from encouraging reflection and communication, these proposals are a recipe for increased conflict and will promote the use of children as bargaining counters for short-term gain. They seem only designed to make the divorces run on time.

Yours faithfully,
BRUCE LIDINGTON
(Chairman), Families Need Fathers,
134 Curtain Road, EC2,
London March 21.

From Mrs Valerie Kleanthous

Sir, Your editorial of March 20 is to be welcomed, in that it supports the introduction of mediation into the divorce process. However, mediation is not some form of divorce counselling. Any saving of marriages during the mediation process, whilst welcome, is a secondary objective.

As presently perceived, and practised by members of the Family Mediators Association or National Family Mediation (the two main associations in the field), the aim is to assist the couple to work out the problems resulting from the breakdown in the relationship and to make appropriate arrangements for the future, both financial and as regards the children, so as to minimise conflict.

Secondly, divorce solicitors continue to have, in my view, an undeserved reputation for escalating conflict. Many family lawyers, and in particular members of the Solicitors Family Law Association, work towards a fair resolution for their client and, as you say, frequently refer their clients to mediation.

Generally speaking, if the solicitor attempts to "squeeze out" the maximum (as you put it) it is on clients' instructions.

Yours faithfully,
VALERIE KLEANTHOUS
(Solicitor/family mediator),
Thatchways, Bridle Lane, Loudwater,
Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire.

From Mrs Lesley Pendlebury Cox

Sir, Proposals designed to cut the true cost of divorce will be welcomed by most. However, Lord Mackay of Clashfern's proposal to introduce a no-fault system of divorce appears to ignore the fact that partners may not simultaneously accept the irrevocable breakdown of their marriage. One cannot legislate against a partner's perception that he or she is innocent whilst the other is guilty.

The ability of one partner to impose a divorce on the other is currently limited. A reduction of limitations might be realistic but could only add to the feelings of impotence and bereavement of the abandoned spouse.

Committed family practitioners recognise the need for counselling skills to complement their legal training. Lord Mackay's proposals may mean, ironically, that clients will need more of their solicitors' time, not less.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY PENDLEBURY COX,
Gregory, Rowcliffe & Milners
(Solicitors),
1 Bedford Row, WCI.

'Gay dergy'

From Mr Paul Bennett

Sir, Nigella Lawson ("Charge of the ban-it brigade", March 21) wonders about the reasons for the apparently high incidence of gay men and women in the Church. I wonder whether the Church in fact has a higher incidence than any other profession, or whether it only appears high because "gay dergy" makes a "good" headline.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL BENNETT,
11 Fermoys, Frome, Somerset.

A nasty touch of...

From Mr Ronald Beall

Sir, In view of your recent obsession with detailed descriptions of the symptoms of various terminal conditions, would you consider asking your Medical Correspondent to contribute a regular column of advice to your older readers on how to cope with being frightened half to death through self-diagnosis resulting from the rest of his articles?

Yours sincerely,
RONALD BEALL,
9 Balfour Place,
Upper Richmond Road, SW15.

Should there be special juries for complex fraud trials?

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, The fraud trial at Newport in Gwent, stopped by the judge after six months because the evidence had become too difficult for the jury to understand (report, March 23), should incite the Home Office to introduce a Bill in Parliament implementing the recommendation in 1986 by Lord Roskill's committee for the trial of complex fraud cases by a High Court judge sitting with lay assessors.

In the meantime some steps could be taken to shorten fraud trials. First, an experienced High Court judge should always try the complex ones. Forensic experience is that a firm, authoritative voice coming from a judge in a red robe curbs prolixity and stops the taking of bad points.

Secondly, indictments should be kept short: never more than six counts. In many cases a single count of conspiracy to defraud would suffice. Such a count would allow a simple issue to be put to the jury — viz, has the prosecution proved that the accused agreed to get together to swindle the alleged victims?

Thirdly, only those alleged to be the principal villains should be indicted. Mere employees, however knowledgeable they may have been of what was

going on, should not be indicted.

Fourthly, counsel instructed under legal aid should be offered an all-in brief fee for the trial and not paid daily refreshers. Before the coming in 1960 of legal aid in criminal cases, defending counsel in London were nearly always offered, and accepted, such fees.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON,
1 The Village, Skelton, York,
March 23.

From the Director of the Serious Fraud Office

Sir, Frances Gibb ("Computerised evidence speeds course of justice", report, March 23) referred to the successful Serious Fraud Office prosecution of Roy Wharton, chairman of Castlegate Securities, at Oxford Crown Court last year, where computer technology was used to great effect in presenting the SFO's case.

Judge May, who presided, is reported to have said that the use of a document retrieval system to store 17,000 core files on compact discs had saved much time and money. This meant that the jury and others were not regularly spending time looking for numerous documents in bundles.

Pugin window

From the Director of the Victorian Society

Sir, Those with even a passing knowledge of Victorian stained glass will have noticed that the window in Sherborne Abbey, Dorset, illustrating your report today, "Vicar campaigns to replace Pugin window redolent of Mr Blobby", is not the A. W. Pugin window that the parish wishes to replace. It is the proposed modern replacement.

Readers may rest assured that even had they seen the correct picture, they would still have been unable to make any connection between Mr Blobby and Pugin's 21 Old Testament kings and prophets.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM FILMER-SANKEY,
Director,
The Victorian Society,
1 Priory Gardens, Bedford Park, W4,
London March 24.

Diplomatic divide

From Mr Michael Hart, QC

Sir, Dr Burville (letter, March 22) will find his point about mending fences addressed by Robert Frost in *Mending Wall*, where the poet's neighbour... will not go behind his father's saying. And he likes having thought of it so well. He says again, "Good fences make good neighbours."

Anyone with experience of boundary disputes will share the sentiment.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HART,
Stone Buildings, Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

From Mr Tom Williams

Sir, The fences have to be mended so that prime ministers and presidents can sit on them.

Yours sincerely,
TOM WILLIAMS,
2 The Hawthorns,
Lutterworth, Leicestershire.

Yale's gift

From Professor J. L. Bradley

Sir, The admirable decision by Yale University to return \$20 million plus interest to a potential donor (report and leading article, March 18) can only increase respect and admiration for a great centre of learning. For any benefactor to expect to approve academic post is, of course, an absurdity, and it is regrettable that minority campus groups (staff or student) would further muddy the waters by mouthing the odious "dead white male" war-cry of political correctness.

Naturally, Yale will survive such assaults to remain the fortress of Western culture it has been for almost three centuries.

Yours,
J. L. BRADLEY,
Church Cottage,
Hinton St George, Somerset,
March 20.

Question Time

From Mr Tim Gardam

Sir, Contrary to what Simon Jenkins seems to believe ("Taking a risk with vox pop", March 18), *Question Time* is not being "replaced" by *The People's Debate*. It will end its run in mid-summer, as usual, and will return for another series in the autumn.

Mr Jenkins alleged that the programme's audiences were "derisively" called "ordinary people" and were "used as soundbites". That was never, I believe, the case; furthermore, since taking over its production last September, the new producer, Capron Productions, has aimed to enhance and increase the role of the studio audience.

The proportion of air time taken up by contributions from the studio audience is now about a third, and the average number of audience members speaking in each programme has increased from about twenty to more than thirty.

There is no "fixed panel" of Con-Lab-Lib politicians plus a "wild-card"; almost half the programmes in the current series have featured two politicians and two non-politicians. There is always a balance between straight political questions and those dealing with ethical or wider social

matters — four out of the six topics last week were on euthanasia, corruption in sport, the "outing" of homosexuals and the demise of *Spitting Image* — and selection is guided by the level of interest shown in different subjects by our studio audiences. Thus the agenda is set by Simon Jenkins's "normal people", not by politicians.

The People's Debate will be a reflection of *Question Time*'s imposing presence over more than a decade, during which we have failed to explore other forms of popular debate, and cannot in any sense be seen as its replacement. *Question Time* has an increasingly loyal audience and, in its present form, continues to thrive.

Yours faithfully,
TIM GARDAM
(Head of Weekly Programmes,
News and Current Affairs),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
201 Wood Lane, W12,
London March 21.

From Ms Anna Carragher

Sir, Simon Jenkins's assertion that producers "were instructed" whom to invite on the programmes is simply

wrong. I produced *Question Time* from 1984 to 1989, and *Any Questions?* from 1989 to 1992, and in that period I was never instructed as to whom I should or should not ask on to the panels. Editorial judgment, due regard to taste and decency and abiding by the law — these were the requirements of the job.

Editorial judgment, not charter renewal, demanded that in the period immediately before general elections most panels did include representatives of all national political parties: we would have failed our audience had we not let the public test their arguments. At other times no such consideration applies, and the phrase "I agree with the last speaker" actually crops up quite frequently.

It is offensive to audiences, both in the studio and at home, to dismiss them as "soundbites". They, not we, decide the content of the programmes and frequently surprise and disconcert panels by the acuity of their questions and comments.

Yours sincerely,
ANNA CARRAGHER
(Head of Programmes,
BBC Northern Ireland),
British Broadcasting Corporation,
Broadcasting House,
Ormeau Avenue, Belfast 2,
March 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

OBITUARIES

JOSEPH NEEDHAM

Joseph Needham, CH, FRS, scientist, Sinologist and Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, 1966-76, died on March 24 aged 94. He was born on December 9, 1900.

JOSEPH NEEDHAM combined the polymath instincts of scientist, Sinologist and historian to an unusual degree. His most sustained and ambitious work of scholarship was the magisterial *Science and Civilisation in China*, a work which ran to a projected seven volumes and 25 parts, and which occupied forty years of his life. The completion of it must now fall to others, but a single volume would have surely made any other Sinologist's reputation for life.

Needham was uniquely well placed to undertake the task. He had a background as an experimental scientist. He was interested in the history of European science, politics and economics, and he had laboriously taught himself Chinese. He was also assured of the assistance of a range of Chinese scholars, many of whom he had met while stationed in Chungking on a scientific mission during the early 1940s.

It was there that there came to him the need for the task to which he devoted his life. Sifting through a pile of forgotten books outside a temple, Needham discovered the existence of a 4th-century Chinese text containing material which, he realised, was hardly known at all to historians of chemistry in other cultures. "One does not forget such introductions," But, while conceding that his work was important as a bridge between China and the West, he did not overestimate his contribution. In his preface to Volume One, published in 1954, he wrote: "The labours of 20 specialists working each for a lifetime would alone begin to make some impression... a book such as the present one can be but a reconnaissance."

The titles of his published books illustrate his wide range of interest: from *A History of Embryology* (1934) to *The Hall of Heavenly Records: Korean astronomical instruments and clocks 1380-1780* (1986). But it is for his writings on Chinese science and civilisation — a subject which in his hands encompassed not only mathematics, astronomy and medicine, but clockmaking, printing and gunpowder — that he will be best remembered. His contribution to scholarship in this respect is unlikely to be bettered within the foreseeable future.

Not Joseph Terence Montgomery Needham was an only child, the son of a Harley Street doctor who specialised in anaesthetics. He was educated at Oundle School and at Caius College, Cambridge. After serving as a surgeon sub-lieutenant for a short time during the First World War he went up to Cambridge, obtaining in 1922 a second in Part II of the Natural Sciences Tripos in physiology, with biochemistry as a major subsidiary subject.

Needham then joined the group of young men who were gathering around Gowland Hopkins to undertake research in the newly-established department of biochemistry at Cambridge. There he quickly distinguished himself, being elected to a fellowship at



Caius College in 1924 and being appointed a university demonstrator in biochemistry in 1928. On March 1, 1933, he succeeded J. B. S. Haldane as Sir William Dunn Reader in biochemistry.

Under the influence of Gowland Hopkins, Needham took up the investigation of metabolic changes which occur in the development of the embryo of the hen's egg. It was indicative of Needham's abilities that in 1931 he published *Chemical Embryology*, a work in three large volumes in which there appeared a comprehensive survey of the whole field of research, including his own, in this important and developing subject. *Chemical Embryology* is prefaced by a long account of the history of embryology from the earliest times which afterwards appeared as a separate work, *A History of Embryology* (1934).

This excursion fostered Needham's interest in the history and philosophy of science, and he was active in instituting courses in this subject in the University of Cambridge in the mid-1930s. All this time he was the leader of a group of biochemical investigators who contributed many new facts and ideas in the field of chemical embryology, comparative biochemistry, and later, in a collaboration which included his wife Dorothy, in investigations on the biochemistry of muscle.

Needham was a polymath in the field of science, more akin to the French encyclopaedists than would be expected of a scientist in modern times. His breadth of knowledge, and his ability to collate information — but not necessarily to evaluate it critically — were astonishing. During the 1930s he became interested in Chinese civilisation as a result of the presence in the

department of biochemistry at Cambridge of a number of Chinese scientists. This prompted him to learn Chinese and in 1942 Needham headed a scientific mission to China and became a counsellor (scientist) at the British Embassy there. During his four years in China he visited many scientific and technological institutes. In 1943 he became a foreign member of the Chinese National Academy (Academia Sinica) and received the Order of the Brilliant Star (Ching Hsing Tai Yuan Chang).

After the war Needham became the first director of the natural sciences department of Unesco, but after some hesitation, he decided in 1948 to return to his post in biochemistry at Cambridge. There he began to collate and to write up some of the large amount of information on Chinese science and civilisation which he had collected in China. By then his library included an immense range of Chinese books and manuscripts, some of which had hitherto been unknown to Western scholars.

The first part of his *magnum opus* appeared in 1954 under the title *Science and Civilisation in China*. This work attempted a systematic survey, which had never before been achieved, of the contributions of traditional Chinese culture throughout the ages to human understanding of nature and the control of natural processes. Although from time to time he gave postgraduate lectures on chemical embryology and on comparative biochemistry, from 1948 onwards his time was almost entirely occupied by Sinology. He did, however, continue to hold his readership in biochemistry until 1965, when he was elected Master of Gonville and Caius College.

Needham was once described as looking like a badly tucked-in bed and, although this was unkind, his appearance was not always tidy. He tended to speak in an excited and passionate way about things that interested him and would sometimes jump from one point to the next with a speed, and even recklessness, that could leave even the most intelligent of listeners somewhat at a loss.

His early associated left-wing political enthusiasm with a concern for High Anglican doctrine and was essentially a friendly, trusting person. Sometimes his integrity, combined with an almost naive trust in the honesty of those around, landed him in difficulties. In some way he was the opposite of a xenophobe and seemed happiest when in the company of visitors of varied hues, whose sometimes tongue-twisting names he would pronounce — correctly or incorrectly — without a trace of diffidence.

In 1952 he accepted an invitation from the Academia Sinica to visit Peking. During the Korean War charges had been made of the dropping of rats bearing typhus-infested insects, and of infected food — for example, cholera-infected clams — from US aeroplanes in enemy-held areas. While he was in China he was invited to consider the case made by the Chinese and, as a result, became convinced of the truth of the allegations. He then agreed to become one of seven foreign scientists to sign a report which declared that they were satisfied with the evidence that germ warfare had, indeed, been practised by the Americans.

The repercussions in Western countries of the appearance of this report were surprising to Needham and caused him some embarrassment. But at a difficult press conference in London after he had returned, the honesty of the man himself was apparent to all. He weathered the storm, returning to his great work of scholarship with undiminished vigour.

Needham lectured by invitation in many different parts of the world, earlier on biochemistry and chemical embryology and later on the history and philosophy of science. In 1972 he became president of the International Union of the History and Philosophy of Science, a distinction which greatly pleased him. He had delivered the Wilkins Lecture to the Royal Society in 1958 on the subject of "The missing link in biological history: a Chinese contribution".

He was awarded honorary degrees by a host of universities and received numerous other awards and honours. Of these he was particularly proud when in 1971 the British Academy elected him to its Fellowship, a rare distinction for a scientist. He had been elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1941 and in 1992 was appointed a Companion of Honour.

In 1924 Needham married Dorothy Moyle, who pursued biochemical research for more than thirty years at Cambridge, sometimes in collaboration with Needham but mostly not. She died in 1987 and he married in 1989 Gwei-Djen Lu, the daughter of a Nanking scientist and a colleague of Needham's for thirty years. She died in 1991 and there were no children of either marriage.

GARTH JENKINS

Garth Jenkins, CB, QC, Deputy Secretary, Legal Adviser and Solicitor to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, 1983-93, died from cancer on March 11 aged 61. He was born on December 7, 1933.



THE career of Garth Jenkins, indeed his whole life, represented a triumph of talent and tenacity over a great handicap.

Born into a working-class Birmingham family, he became blind at the age of four as the result of an accident and an infection which could not in those days be treated with antibiotics.

He was educated at the Royal National College for the Blind (then at Shrewsbury) where he was trained as a shorthand typist. This must have appeared to represent the best he could hope for, but at the age of eight Jenkins had vowed that he would not spend the "rest of my life making baskets". Perhaps it was not surprising, therefore, that later, as a typist in the office of the enlightened Town Clerk of Birmingham, J. F. Gregg, he came to the latter's notice. Gregg helped him to study law at Birmingham University.

From then on he did not look back. He graduated and was called to the Bar in 1963. Although offered a bursary to join chambers in Gray's Inn and encouraged by his two sponsors, both judges, his impending marriage decided him against the financial uncertainty of practice at the Bar.

After spells with South Shields Council and the Land Commission he joined the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food (MAFF) in London in 1971. After a period of adjustment, during which his talents came to be fully appreciated by his superiors,

he made a meteoric rise to legal adviser in 1983 at the early age of 49.

Jenkins's abilities as a highly professional lawyer especially skilled in European Community law were combined with personal qualities which won him the trust and respect of successive MAFF ministers. During his period as legal adviser the settlement of the common fisheries policy was followed by the completion of the single market and reforms of food safety legislation and of the common agricultural policy. All represented a heavy load for Jenkins in which he revelled. Above all, he was able to grasp quickly and with apparent ease the frequent and complicated judgments of the European Court.

Jenkins was a natural lawyer, who brought to his official duties great seriousness and dedication to the public service. He was an articulate speaker and his written submissions were a model of clarity and elegance in a style which was distinctly his own. His legal competence was fully appreciated by all lawyers in the Government up to and including the Lord Chancellor. He radiated authority but with such good humour

and humanity that he drew people to him.

Jenkins's achievements as a lawyer were marked by his appointment as CB in 1987, the acceptance of his application for silk in 1989 and by the award of an honorary LL.D. by Kingston University in 1993.

He was an executive council member of the Royal National Institute for the Blind from 1980, a founder member of the Society of Blind Lawyers, since 1981 a governor of the Royal National College for the Blind and chairman of the Braille Chess Association, 1981-84.

A great ambassador for the blind, his conversation and conduct put others at their ease. His intellectual curiosity gave him a great fund of knowledge: theatre, literature, music, chess, bridge, food, drink, travel and sport numbered among his many interests. But the abiding impression he gave was one of courage. Badly injured in the 1970s when a car failed to stop at traffic lights, he subsequently contracted rheumatoid arthritis, to which affliction was later joined angina and diabetes, and finally cancer. Such was his indomitable cheerfulness and generosity of spirit that few realised the full extent of his physical problems.

Until serious illness cruelly intervened, he was greatly looking forward to taking up his appointment to the Special Educational Needs Tribunal under the 1993 Act: a task for which his talents and experience would admirably have suited him.

Jenkins married Patricia Lindsay in 1965. The great debt he owed for her companionship and support, particularly since his operation last year, was something he was the first to acknowledge. She survives him together with their daughter.

RUSSELL BRADDON

Russell Braddon, novelist and author, died in New South Wales on March 20 aged 74. He was born on January 25, 1921.

THE author of more than thirty books, Russell Braddon was a useful biographer and writer on a variety of subjects of general interest. He was also an efficient entertainer by means of light, or at least lightish, popular fiction. An engaging, if belligerent, panellist on the BBC's *Any Questions?* programme of the Freddie Grisewood and David Jacobs eras, he later scripted, narrated and presented television documentaries, such as his contribution to the BBC *Great Rivers of the World* series (1985). In the 1950s and 1960s he was, as a forthright and usually genial self-publicist, a darling of the provincial luncheon clubs — particularly warmed to by women.

An Australian who came to Britain in 1949, Russell Braddon was educated at the Sydney Church of England Grammar School, where, as he liked to put it, he "failed law finals" and "began writing by accident in 1949". He never stopped — indeed, he listed as his recreation, in *Who's Who*, "not writing".

All his earliest dreams of writing ended, though, when, having joined the Australian Imperial Force as a gunner, he was captured by the Japanese on Malaya on January 25, 1942, his 21st birthday. Out of his experiences as a prisoner of war came what was undoubtedly his most vivid book, *The Naked Island* (1951), which was superbly illustrated by Ronald Searle. The book made his name overnight, became a bestseller and was even turned into a play.

By 1974 it had sold its millionth copy, and a party was given by the publishers to celebrate its triumph. Braddon badly embarrassed them by dismissing his work as a "silly little book" and "a

load of rubbish", adding that the Second World War was "totally irrelevant today". The fact that he attended the celebratory party revealed, however, another aspect of his personality: a born provocateur, he did not always intend everything he said to be taken seriously.

Sometimes, though, he would make attacks on individuals and this caused his reputation more damage, especially when he got his facts wrong. There was a period in his life when he seemed obsessed by "the yellow peril", expressing frequent anxieties about China and openly announcing that he regarded as

from James Clavell's novel, opened in London. Braddon attacked it on grounds of inaccuracy. A row ensued between him and Clavell, who was able to show that the conditions Braddon had experienced in the other ranks' encampment had been different from those that Clavell had known as an officer. Such controversy was invariably meat and drink to Braddon — one reason why he became invaluable to the BBC as a merchant of instant, though not always well-founded, opinion.

Among his more solid achievements was his biography of Lord Thomson of Fleet, already the owner of *The Scotsman* and *The Sunday Times* (though not by then of *The Times*), which appeared in 1965. Written with a measure of co-operation from its subject, it presented a lively portrait of Roy Thomson as an entrepreneur — down to and including his habit of insisting on taking his breakfast in a workmen's café, even when staying at the Savoy.

Later non-fiction included a somewhat superficial account of the Suez crisis of 1956, *Suez: The Splitting of a Nation* (1973) and *Images of Australia* (1988).

Braddon's many novels were never regarded as profound; but then they were never composed with profundity, or even elegance of style, in mind. They were, however, widely appreciated for their ingenuity and efficiency. Braddon gave value for money. His novels ranged from futuristic fantasies such as *The Year of the Angry Rabbit* (1964), through war novels such as *When the Enemy is Tired* (1968), which was set in Vietnam, to detective stories such as *End Play* (1974).

Russell Braddon lived for more than forty years in Britain, returning to Australia only in 1993. He never married.



his most important book one published in 1983 with the slightly clumsy title, *The Other Hundred Years War — Japan's Bid for Supremacy, 1941-2041*.

One of his more noteworthy biographies was that of his fellow-Australian, Joan Sutherland. Published in 1962, it was generally praised, although some felt that it put too much emphasis on the sufferings of the singer in the interstices of her art. The musical world was also slightly snuffy, catching Braddon out in a number of elementary errors and noting that he was not a true opera buff.

In 1965 when the film *King Rat*, adapted by Bryan Forbes

PEGGY PUREY-CUST

Peggy Purey-Cust, childhood neighbour of John Betjeman, died in Minehead, Somerset, on March 22 aged 89. She was born in London on October 12, 1905.

THE name of Peggy Purey-Cust will be known to all lovers of John Betjeman's poetry through his autobiographical volume *Summoned by Bells*. In the third chapter of this, which recalled his Highgate upbringing, Betjeman described Peggy as "my first and purest love".

Humility, gentleness and a sense of humour characterised Peggy Purey-Cust throughout her long life. She retained the beauty, poise and purity that Betjeman noted, and was a loving person who devoted most of her life to the service of others.

Peggy Marjorie Purey-Cust was the daughter of Admiral Sir Herbert Purey-Cust, the chief hydrographer in the Royal Navy, and Alice Hepburn, from Australia. Peggy was the last surviving grandchild of Arthur Purey-Cust,



Dean of York from 1880 to 1916, after whom a nursing home in York is named. On her mother's side, she was a great granddaughter of John Hepburn, one of the founders of the town of Smeaton Hill in Victoria, Australia, in 1838.

Betjeman and Purey-Cust lived as children in West Hill, Highgate, the young John at number 31 and Peggy at the top of the hill at number 82. At Byron House School in Hampstead Lane they formed together in an adaptation of Christina Rossetti's *The Months*, Peggy as one of the months, John as a robin.

Peggy clearly made a lasting impression on the young Betjeman, and he was infatuated with more than her poetic sounding name. "All my loves since then / Have had a look of Peggy Purey-Cust" — but the childhood relationship was not to develop further. It seems that Betjeman was sent packing. His book *Summoned by Bells* goes on to explain how, having been invited once for tea, he was never asked again. After the tea he called on Peggy many times but was always told that she was out, away or unwell. When she was sick he took her "House of the Sleeping Winds, / My favourite book with whirling art-nouveau / And Walter Crane-ish colour plates" to cheer her up, but this was merely taken in to her. "Weeks passed and passed" — and then it was returned. "Oh gone for ever, Peggy Purey-Cust!"

Many years later, when interviewed on television in 1983, Betjeman expressed his wonder as to the whereabouts of Peggy Purey-Cust. She wrote to him with her address and a short correspondence followed, in which he assured her: "I remember your golden hair and how it inspired my youthful attempts at poetry." Peggy's life was clouded by the death of her elder brother, Sub-Lieutenant Arthur John Purey-Cust, killed aboard HMS *Strongbow* in October 1917, aged just 16. Peggy's father died in 1938, and she left London with her mother and aunt for Minehead at the start of the war in 1939.

Peggy Purey-Cust stayed in Minehead for the rest of her life, apart from seven years in the 1960s when she lived in Melbourne, Australia. She remained single and cared devotedly for her mother and aunt in their old age.

She was a keen member of the Minehead Painters Group and St Michael's Church and she enjoyed reading poetry, travelling and seeing friends and cousins. For the last eight years she had lived in Blenheim Lodge Nursing Home.

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Church appointments

The Rev Anthony Yates, Vicar, Fenton (Lichfield); to be Vicar, St Augustine in St John, Kilburn (London). The Rev Frank Sears, Vicar, St Thomas, Trowbridge and West Ashton; to be also Hospital Chaplain, Trowbridge group — St John's Hospital, Trowbridge; and Trowbridge Community Hospital (Salisbury). The Rev Martin Smith, Rector, Colkirk in Oxwick, Whissonsett, Horningoft and Brisley; Priest-in-charge, Great Witley Ryburgh, Testerton, Gately and Hempton in Pudding Norton; to be Priest-in-charge, Norwich St John Timberhill in St Julian (Norwich). The Rev Nicholas Von Berton, Assistant (NSM) to the Rural Dean, Dallington (Chichester); to be Assistant

Curate, Warminster St Denys, Corsley w Chapmanslade, and The Deverills, and Team Vicar, designate of the proposed Cley Hill Team Ministry (Salisbury). The Rev Andrew Wagstaff, Vicar, St George w St John the Baptist, Nottingham; to be Vicar of the benefice of Workson - Priory of St Mary and St Cuthbert w Carburton, covering the churches of Workson St Mary and St Cuthbert, St Mary the Virgin, Clumber Park and St Giles, Carburton (Southwell). The Rev Richard Wallace, Vicar, St Dunstan, Bellingham (Southwark); to be Rector, Stanley (Durham). The Rev Ben Whitaker, Assistant Curate, St Helen's, Abingdon (Oxford); to be Chaplain to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Sherborne

Episcopal Area (Salisbury). The Rev Brian Williams, Assistant Curate, St Mary, Liss; to be Assistant Curate, St Mark, North End w special responsibility for St Nicholas (Portsmouth). The Rev Alison Woodhouse, Curate, St John, Bursough; to be Priest-in-charge, St Luke, Formby (Liverpool). The Rev Ruth Yeoman, Assistant Curate, Saints Peter and Paul, Colshill; to be Assistant Curate, Saints Philip and James, Hodge Hill, and Diocesan Children's Adviser (Birmingham). Resignations and retirements. The Rev Richard Basten, Rector, Rowde and Poulshot (Salisbury); retired as from February 28. The Rev Christina Hunt, Curate (NSM), Alderbury Team Ministry (Salisbury); retired as from December 16 1994.

Ministry (Salisbury); to retire as from May 31. The Rev Canon Maurice Burrell, Diocesan Director of Training and an Honorary Canon of Norwich Cathedral (Norwich); to retire as from August 31. The Rev Colin Godfrey, Chaplain to HM Prison, Highpoint, Stradishall (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); retired as from February 19. The Rev Raymond Houldsworth, Vicar, Minster w Monkton (Canterbury); to retire as from June 30. The Rev Jamie Harridge, Assistant Curate, St Cuthbert, Copnor (Portsmouth); resigned as from February 28. The Rev Christina Hunt, Curate (NSM), Alderbury Team Ministry (Salisbury); retired as from December 16 1994.

SOCIETY IN NEW YORK.

(From the New York Times) Readers of the New York Times will recall that we have had to make many expostulations against gross extravagance, but until the exigencies and misfortunes of the panic furnished a text for preaching economy as a patriotic duty there was, without doubt, considerable difficulty in any effort to inaugurate social retrenchment. While there are at least 100 families whose position is so secure that they can spend as much as they like or as little as they please without incurring any attacks on the ground of display or meanness, it must be granted that the major part of our social world consists of *novi homines*, who feel themselves bound to do as others do.

The fashion in toilets also has shown a marked spirit of economy. Last year the milliners and the ladies between them seemed to be trying to spend money, to waste material, to produce the least possible effect at the greatest possible cost. Position jackets, papiers, overskirts, &c., positively were heaped one upon the other until a lady's dress consumed 44 yards of silk. Now the polarized skirt, even when highly trimmed, do not require more than 25 yards. All the Sardanapalian riot of former seasons has

ON THIS DAY

March 27 1874

This account of retrenchment in New York strikes a chord with viewers of *The Buccaneers* on television, with its tales of money made and lost, while young women from across the Atlantic seek aristocratic English husbands. The champagne, the beauty of birds, the piles of fried oysters, the lobster salad, and all the incentives to over-eating and intoxication have passed away. It seems to be recognised now that an assembly is not an occasion for feasting: it is simply one of those social devices by which people come to know each other. Twenty years ago there was comparatively a greater demand for Lafite, Chateau Margaux, Chateau Latour, La Rose, &c. Now the inquiries are for St. Emilion, St. Julien, and similar brands.

Another sign of retrenchment is visible in the floral displays at entertainments. Last

season the outlay in this particular was nothing less than frenzied. Flowers for a single party, especially on bridal occasions, would often cost over \$500. These enormous sums do not indicate the value of the flowers so much as the labour and the distorted ingenuity evinced in eccentric patterns. The bell of camellias, tube roses, and bluish, or tea roses, which was suspended over the heads of the bride and groom, was often a masterpiece of folly.

With regard to expenditure in carriages, this is a luxury which the conditions of Manhattan Island have made a necessity. The time is passed when a man would go into a carriage-maker's store of a morning and buy an eight-spoke carriage for \$3,500 to give to a friend. These things belonged to the Tammany times, and are not repeated now. During the panic there was a sudden diminution in the sale of such things, but since January it has been rather greater than during the same period last year. And there has been a steady decline in the prices also. A lady can now have a new coupe for \$1,400, or a landaulet for \$1,900.

The wicked, senseless extravagance which did come from certain cliques, and which reached its climax in the winter of 1872-73, has passed away, it is to be hoped, for ever.

هكذا من الامم

هكذا من الاصل

ROWING



25

Heading for the river with eights by the dozen

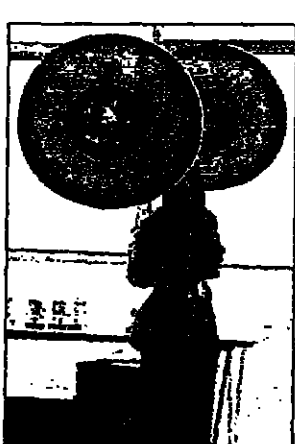
RUGBY UNION



29

Clubs at break point in first division

SCHOOLS SPORT



30

Girls start to lift barriers in all-male preserve

GOLF

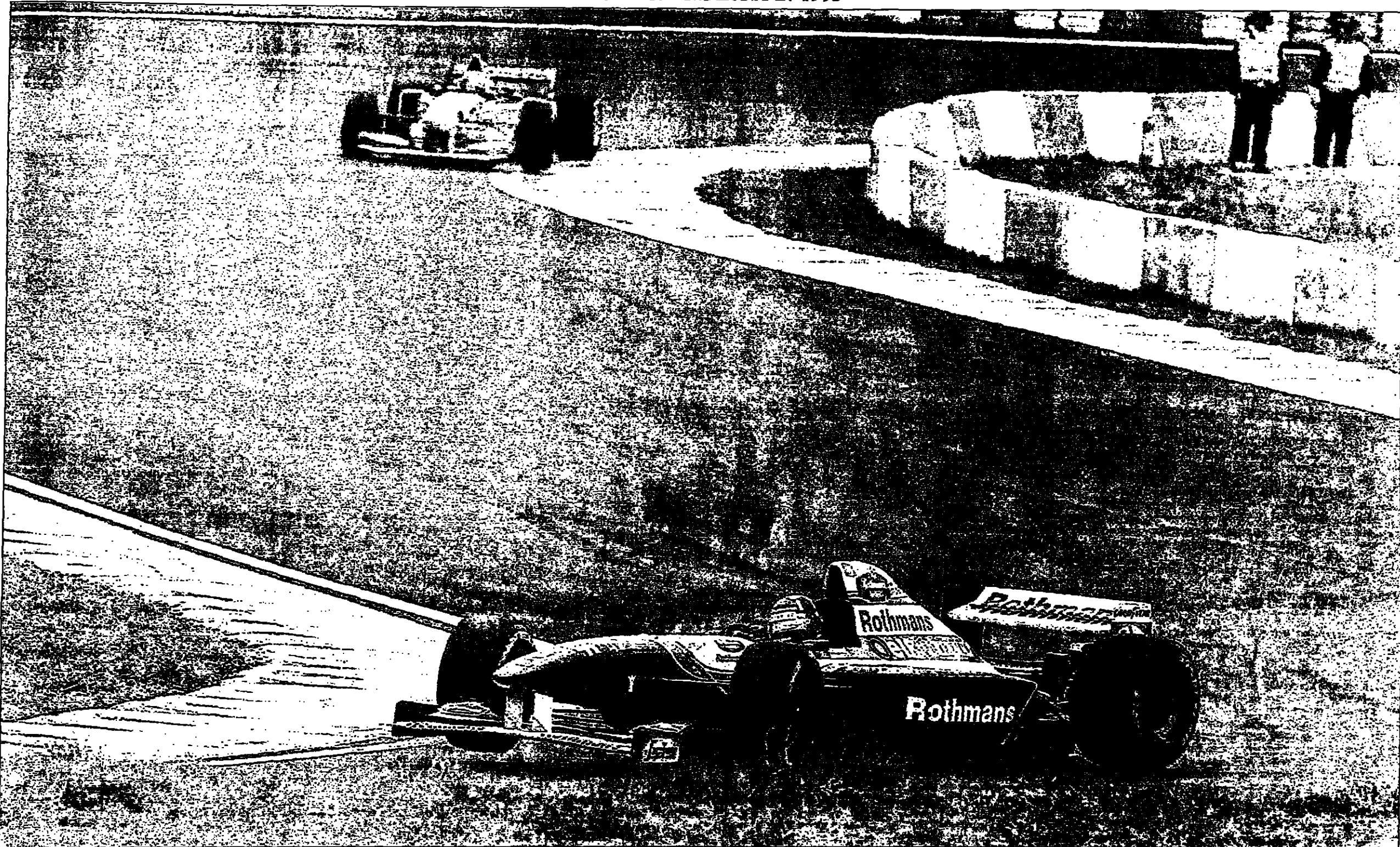


33

Tee up with the masters and win £25,000

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY MARCH 27 1995



Hill loses control, apparently after gearbox failure, and spins out of the Brazilian Grand Prix on the 31st lap. Schumacher went on to win the first race of the season. Photograph: Steve Etherington

Hill spins out leaving Coulthard to challenge champion

Schumacher draws first blood

FROM OLIVER HOIT
IN SÃO PAULO

THE first breeze of a sultry, oppressive week blew through the natural amphitheatre that cradles this track yesterday. It bore Michael Schumacher along with it through banks of supporters dressed in yellow and blue, past the stricken Williams-Renault of Damon Hill lying stationary in the grass and just out of the reach of the charging David Coulthard, on to victory in the Brazilian Grand Prix.

But it could not blow away the smell of controversy and discord that everyone hoped had vanished with the end of last season. Both the Benetton and Williams teams were fined \$30,000 (£20,000) before the start of the race because the International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) discovered irregularities in ELF fuel samples taken on Saturday.

marks over the victor. A race loses some of its thrill if doubt lingers over the result and a victory depends on the outcome of a laboratory test.

The pity is the greater in that the race and the performances of Schumacher and Coulthard did much to compensate for the absence of Ayrton Senna at his home track. Schumacher won against the odds after a week-end plagued by uncertainty and uncharacteristic losses of control, and Coulthard pushed him all the way.

The German world champion blitzed his way past Hill, who was starting from pole position and led in to the first corner. For 19 laps, it appeared that the pair were enacting their struggle in

Adelaide at the end of last season. Hill stuck close to Schumacher's tail and almost overtook him on the fourth lap. The young German fend-off him off and, as Hill tried to recover his position, Coulthard drew alongside his teammate and narrowly failed to go into second place. The front two duelled like that until Schumacher made his first pit stop after 19 laps.

Hill made his stop three laps later but emerged in the lead and seemed to be firmly in the driving seat. But then, on the 31st lap, Hill lost control of the Williams coming down the Descida do Sol and slithered into the grass by the side of the track. It later emerged that he had lost second gear a lap earlier and, it seems, a

gearbox problem may have caused his downfall.

"Something certainly broke," Hill said. "And it put me out of the race. It is an enormous shame and I am bitterly disappointed because, until then, it had been a very close and exciting race and I thought I had the edge today. You just do not need this type of thing to happen. A championship is hard enough without technical problems forcing you out in only the first race."

Hill's early demise has not only ended the early championship momentum to Schumacher but has created a fascinating position within the Williams team, with Coulthard, the junior partner, now holding the advantage. The Scot, 23, led for much of the

race after Schumacher had made his second pit stop but Benetton's strategy of making three stops paid dividends and Schumacher emerged from his final refuelling with a four-second lead which he doubled by the end of the race.

It was a particularly sweet victory for Schumacher on the outskirts of this sprawling South American city. It was here that he first dethroned Senna last year when the Brazilian spun off towards the end of the race while trying to catch the German. Schumacher's win yesterday, when he was again expected to trail Hill's Williams, may prove to be just as important a result for him because Benetton are likely to get stronger as the season continues.

The Brazilian crowd had flocked here as much for the man who was not racing as for those who were. They came for the tributes, the Ayrton Senna Fan Club parade and the squadron of nine acrobatic planes, spiralling high above the grandstands to make the shape of an "S".

A spirit of carnival more than one of mourning, though, pervaded the day. More than six hours before the race began, queues of fans snaked back along the main road leading to the track, past the warren of shacks that bordered the circuit. Street hawkers peddled all manner of Senna T-shirts, showing images from every stage of his career.

Inside, after the tribute had been made, the crowd, which numbered nearly 70,000, basked the past and concentrated on the race ahead. They beat drums and sang songs about the new object of their hopes, Rubens Barrichello, the young Jordan driver.

Barrichello retired with engine problems after 19 laps though and, as other leading contenders like Johnny Herbert and Hill were forced out of the race early, the McLaren of Mika Häkkinen and Mark Blundell came into the reckoning.

Singled out for ridicule before the race because of the fiasco surrounding Nigel Mansell's incompatibility with his cockpit, his replacement, Blundell, silenced the laughter with sixth place. Häkkinen drove superbly to finish fourth.

Photograph, page 1
Tax code, page 1



DETAILS FROM SÃO PAULO

Results
1. M. Schumacher (Ger) Benetton-Renault, 1hr 38min 34.154sec
2. D. Coulthard (GB) Williams-Renault, 1:38.42.14
3. G. Berger (Austria) Ferrari, 1 lap behind
4. M. Häkkinen (Fin) McLaren-Mercedes, 1 lap behind
5. J. Herbert (GB) Ferrari, 1 lap behind
6. M. Blundell (GB) McLaren-Mercedes, 1 lap behind
7. M. Sato (Jpn) Tyrrell-Yamaha, 2 laps behind
8. A. Sasaki (Jpn) Ugiu-Ligier, 2 laps behind
9. A. Montemini (It) Pacific-Louis-Ford, 6 laps behind
10. P. Dink (GB) Fort-Ford, 7 laps behind

Championship positions
Drivers: 1. Schumacher 10pts; 2. Coulthard 6; 3. Berger 4; 4. Häkkinen 3; 5. Alesi 2; 6. Blundell 1.
Constructors: 1. Benetton 10pts; equal 2. Williams, Ferrari 6; 4. McLaren 4.

Final qualifying times
1. D. Hill (GB) Williams, 1min 20.081sec;
2. Schumacher, 1:20.382; 3. Coulthard, 1:20.492; 4. J. Herbert (GB), Benetton, 1:20.888; 5. Berger, 1:20.906; 6. Alesi, 1:21.041; 7. Häkkinen, 1:21.383; 8. E. Irvine (GB), Jordan, 1:21.749; 9.

Blundell, 1:21.779; 10. O. Paris (Fr), Ligier, 1:21.914; 11. U. Katajama (Japan), Tyrrell, 1:22.325; 12. Sato, 1:22.418; 13. G. Morbidelli (It), Footwork, 1:22.488; 14. H. H. Frenzen (Ger), Sauber, 1:22.492; 15. S. Sato, 1:22.571; 16. P. Barrichello (Br), Jordan, 1:22.575; 17. P. Martin (Fr), Minardi, 1:24.383; 18. K. Satoru (Jpn), Minardi, 1:24.443; 19. K. Wendlinger (Austria), Sauber, 1:24.723; 20. B. Gachot (Fr), Pacific, 1:25.127; 21. T. Hara (Japan), Footwork, 1:25.225; 22. Montemini, 1:25.886; 23. R. Moreno (Br), Fort, 1:26.269; 24. J. Verstappen (Nl), Simtek, 1:26.323; 25. Dink, 1:27.792; 26. D. Schattarella (It), Simtek, 1:28.106.

Retiring drivers
Apr 30: Argentina (Buenos Aires)
May 14: Spain (Barcelona)
May 28: Monaco (Monte Carlo)
June 11: Canada (Montréal)
July 2: France (Magny-Cours)
July 16: Britain (Silverstone)
July 30: Germany (Hockenheim)
Aug 27: Belgium (Spa)
Sept 10: Italy (Monza)
Sept 24: Portugal (Estoril)
Oct 1: Europe (Nürburgring, Ger)
Oct 22: Pacific (Aida, Japan)
Oct 28: Japan (Suzuka)
Nov 12: Australia (Adelaide)

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Programmed by a land of sporting plenty

Was ever a nation in such thrall to television as the United States? A population of 250 million, 95.4 million households with televisions, zillions of sets. Laura Davies, the golfer, who has 18 televisions in her house in Surrey, must feel at home in the country that worships the cathode ray.

No leading sport in the US goes unnoticed by the cameras or unwatched by the population. When Michael Jordan made his basketball comeback for the Chicago Bulls last week, one seventh of the population watched it on television. You can watch sport on television round the clock in the United States. There is even one channel devoted to golf, 24 hours each day, seven days each week.

Between 11am and 9.30pm on Saturday, it was possible to

see the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) men's and women's basketball, men's and women's professional golf, tennis, tennis, bowling, car racing, professional basketball, soccer. Twelve stations, 12 flicks of the remote-control button.

The day began with news items about sports personalities. It always does in America these days. First Mike Tyson, whose release from jail merited four minutes of filmed report followed by several minutes more of interviews with boxing experts. Americans do things thoroughly. They always go the extra yard. Then came the greatest television saga since Dallas, the latest in the O.J. Simpson trial. This is my third visit to the United States in nine months and each time Simpson has been making the



JOHN HOPKINS

TV ACTION REPLAY

news. Last June it was the enthralling car chase, every last yard of which was covered by television. Last August, it was the arraignment. Now it is details of the trial. It is Perry Mason all over again.

Throughout Saturday, sport on television rolled on. Women's tennis, men's golf, the countdown to the NCAA basketball championship's Final Four. A glut of golf was gorged on what was on offer. Don't like wrestling? Flick to another channel. There were more than 70 on the set in my Florida hotel. The demand for

sport is enormous... and growing. ESPN — the Entertainment Sports Programming Network — has just added a second channel.

Much of golf on American television is a delight, though the colours are too vivid and the first few references to "the backside" meaning the inward nine holes jarred. Then I remembered it was in Jacksonville that a man had told me about a car accident in which there had been "a fairly serious fatality". I remembered also seeing a sign saying "live recorded music" and

another "ears pierced while you wait".

According to American television, Prince Charles is campaigning for a return to the King's English. He would tear out what is left of his hair were he to attempt the same this side of the Atlantic.

In transmitting The Players' Championship, the NBC network demonstrated an impressive commitment to inform. Dave Marr, who is familiar to BBC viewers, and the incisive Johnnie Miller in the commentary booth, are outstanding golf analysts. NBC's foot soldiers seemed better than the BBC's. There were more of them, they covered more holes. One never had a sense they were straining, as one does sometimes with the BBC's golf, when so much is thrust on to the shoulders of Peter Alliss.

Golf turned to tennis, to more about Tyson, to the latest in the college basketball, reports of Jordan v Shaquille O'Neal in a professional basketball match the night before. Amateur basketball has an extra dimension in 1995. At a time when baseball players are on strike, when there has been an ice hockey lockout, when a boxer has been serving a jail sentence and a famous former footballer is on a murder charge, the excitement of amateur basketball is heightened. It is real sport, relatively unadorned.

For a few hours one was a voyeur, peeping at strands of a country's subculture. An American said sport was the toy department of life. America at play is as impressive as America at work and television brings it all home to you.

Dooohan dominates his home event

MICHAEL DOOHAN, of Australia, the world 500cc motorcycle champion, led from start to finish on his Honda to win the Australian Grand Prix by 13.44 seconds at Eastern Creek, Sydney, yesterday. Dooohan, who won nine races last season on his way to his first world title, took 46min, 6.03sec to cover 30 laps of the 2.44-mile track, a total of 73.26 miles. He averaged 95.35mph.

Dooohan, 29, led the chasing pack by 2.5sec after just three laps and had increased the margin to 8.06sec by the halfway stage. He punched the air in triumph before he crossed the finishing line and rode on one wheel for most of the final 100 yards. "It's great to win any race, but it's especially great to win the Australian Grand Prix," he said. His compatriot, Daryl Beattie, was second on a Suzuki, and Alex Criville, of Spain, came third on the second Honda. Luca Cadalora, of Italy, finished fourth on a Yamaha.

Turner resists Rocca

GOLF: Greg Turner, of New Zealand, held off the challenge of Costantino Rocca, of Italy, to win the Turespana Balearic Open in Mallorca yesterday. Turner, who began the tournament by taking four putts for a triple-bogey seven, shot a closing 68 to win by two strokes with a 14-under-par total of 274. Rocca shot a 67 but had started the final round three behind. Turner collected £40,478 for his third PGA European Tour victory and another £3,000 for his course record 65 in the second round. Third was Miguel Angel Jimenez, of Spain, and the 1994 champion, Barry Lane, and Jean Van de Velde, of France, shared fourth.

Hendry moves ahead

SNOOKER: Peter Ebdon, right, trailed Stephen Hendry 5-2 at the completion of the first session in the Benson and Hedges Irish Masters final at Goffs, Co Kildare, yesterday. The Scot was left requiring four of the remaining ten frames to capture his fifth title of the season. Hendry exploited most of his opportunities while Ebdon was vulnerable, particularly early on.



Sheffield take title

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers are the British League champions (Norman de Mesquita writes). Five goals by Ken Priestley helped them to recover from trailing 5-2 to defeat their closest premier division rivals, Nottingham Panthers, 8-6 to take the title. Cardiff Devils, by beating Whiteley Warriors, retained hope of finishing second. In the first division, Gary Stefan saved Slough Jets' unbeaten home record by scoring against Telford Tigers with seconds to go.

Connor in contention

YACHTING: Team New Zealand and Young America's places in the challenger and defender finals for the America's Cup appear assured but the battles continue to decide who matches up against them. Dennis Connor and Stars & Stripes kept their hopes alive with a victory over Mighty Mary at the weekend, and Charlie Dickinson's New Zealand challenger, TAG Heuer, was heading for a second big clash against one Australia last night.

Barnes breaks through

SWIMMING: Hannah Barnes, a 15-year-old schoolgirl, held off Kathy Osher for an unexpected win in the 50 metres backstroke at the British Grand Prix at Crystal Palace yesterday. There were no such surprises in the women's 400 metres freestyle. Sarah Hardcastle, of Bracknell, cruised to her third victory in three days, winning in 4min 17.09sec. Neil Willey won the 100 metres backstroke in 58.50sec.

Border takes charge

CRICKET: Allan Border, right, hit an unbeaten 76 as Queensland built up a massive first-innings lead against South Australia on a rain-interrupted third day of the Sheffield Shield final. Playing in what could be his last first-class match, the former Australia captain helped Queensland to 501 for four in reply to South Australia's 214 at close of play at the Gabba.



Davis powers home

CYCLING: Les Davis, 24, lived up to the name of the new amateur squad, Team Energy, when he displayed an abundance of it to win the Europa two-day, 145-mile race near Winchester yesterday. He laid solid foundations for ultimate victory in the morning's 4.7-mile time trial, which he won, after finishing second to Matthew Illingworth in the opening road race stage on Saturday.

Light blues prevail

ROWING: Cambridge won the fifth Women's Boat Race at Henley yesterday, knocking eight seconds off the record with the help of a strong tail wind and the pressure from a powerful Oxford crew who themselves bettered the old record by four seconds. Cambridge also won the men's lightweight event in a close race in which both crews again broke existing records.

SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm)		Conditions Piste	Runs to Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (°F)	Last °C snow
	L	U					
AUSTRIA							
Kitzbühel	30	180	good	varied	fair	snow	3 28/3
	(Light snowfall; mid and upper runs good)						
St Anton	80	435	good	varied	fair	snow	2 28/3
	(Dusting of fresh snow; windy; outlook good)						
FRANCE							
Alpe d'Huez	205	480	fair	varied	fair	fine	6 20/3
	(Hot and sunny, T-shirt skiing conditions)						
Avoriaz	280	380	good	heavy	good	sun	5 20/3
	(Typical spring conditions; all lifts open)						
Flaine	175	380	fair	heavy	fair	fair	9 22/3
	(Good snow coverage but slushy conditions low down)						
ITALY							
Cervinia	90	400	good	heavy	good	sun	2 20/3
	(Good skiing under sunny skies)						
SWITZERLAND							
Arosa	100	150	good	varied	good	cloud	1 28/3
	(Light snowfall has freshened pistes; good skiing)						
Verbier	80	250	good	heavy	good	sun	3 20/3
	(Generally good spring skiing; warm sunshine)						
Zermatt	85	330	good	varied	good	sun	6 20/3
	(Glorious skiing in warm spring conditions)						

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

Japanese overpowered by champion out to retain the No 1 ranking

Graf eases home as she retains Lipton title

FROM STUART JONES, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

STEFFI GRAF is about to endure an exercise that will be about as taxing as the predictably one-sided women's final of the Lipton Championships on Saturday.

She is to spend four days lounging on a Floridian beach, showering occasionally for cameras shooting a television commercial advertising a deodorant called Rexona. During her restful recuperation after retaining the title by dismissing Kimiko Date in a mere 78 minutes, she will consider her forthcoming schedule. Wherever and whenever she decides to re-

Results page 32

turn to the travelling circus, her greatest concern will again be not the opposition but her own physical condition.

Although she has felt no adverse reaction in her lower spine since she returned from an absence of effectively five months, she expressed misgivings about how her back will stand up to the different demands of clay. She is less comfortable on that surface than on the relatively unyielding hard courts. "It is the sliding," she said. "That is a lot tougher on my sacroiliac joint [the area which was damaged initially at the Canadian Open last August]. When I tried in December, it just didn't work." She is to attempt to correct the problem over the next few weeks.

She does not yet know whether she will represent Germany in the Federation Cup, which is this year being played under a new format. If she does, she will not demand a fee, unlike Boris Becker (who is reported to receive more than \$2 million to appear in the Davis Cup) and Michael Stich (half as much). "I don't care about the money if I am playing for my country," she said, barely disguising her criticism of her compatriots. "It has been such a big issue in Germany and I think it is terrible the way it has been going so far. I have no intentions of doing something like that."

Not that she is short of a penny or two. In successfully defending the Lipton Championship, as she did in 1988, she collected more than \$200,000. Her overall earnings rose to more than \$15 million, a total surpassed by only one other woman, Martina Navratilova, the winner of 167 titles as opposed to Graf's 89, received in excess of \$20 million.

Graf remains ranked No 2 behind Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, but their contrasting form indicates that the positions will soon be reversed. The Spaniard, who reached the women's doubles final with Jana Novotna, has not won a tournament this year.

Sánchez Vicario lasted only until the third round here, while Graf has won all three events she has entered since she returned in Paris last month. In 14 successive victories, she has not dropped a



Graf holds up the Lipton Championship trophy after a 78-minute final victory

set, a sequence which was endangered only fleetingly when Date, the seventh seed, was on the verge of a defeat which even she had foreseen as inevitable.

Graf reeled off the opening five games in 18 minutes. Of the eight points she conceded, almost half of them were her own double faults. When she served for the match at 5-2, Date unleashed a series of

winner (remarkably, she was credited with more than Graf on the forehand) and reduced the deficit.

"Her power comes from her speed," Graf reflected magnanimously. "She is one of the fastest players around the court and she has great stamina. She hits the ball early and her shots are not easy to read."

In spite of the complimentary appraisal, Japan's lead-

ing figure went down 6-1, 6-4. Date has yet to beat Graf (three of her five losses have occurred here) but she did achieve a breakthrough of sorts.

For the first time in her career, Date conducted a press conference in English. "Did you ever think at any time that you would win?" she was asked. "No," she replied. Nor did anyone else.

Olazábal's putter catches fire

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN PONTE VEDRA

WITH one of the most extraordinary nine holes he can ever have played, José María Olazábal leapt up the field in the fourth round of the Players' Championship at Ponte Vedra Beach yesterday. Although appearing indifferent to what was happening and often looking disappointed with the shots he played, Olazábal sped to the turn in 31. five under par.

He had begun the day 11 strokes behind the leaders, Bernhard Langer and Corey Pavin. By the time he reached the tenth tee Olazábal had closed to within six shots. "See," Sergio Gómez, Olazábal's manager, said with a smile. "If he keeps going like this anything can happen."

Olazábal was all over the place, left from one tee, right from another. "He is at war with his driver," Gómez said. Again and again he would let his right hand come off the grip on the follow through, a sure sign that he had hit a bad shot. He was in four bunkers either from the tee or around the greens, two on one hole.

At least his foot was not hurting. Since Monday he has taken to taping together the big toe and the adjoining toe on his right foot and the pain that has dogged him since his foot operation at the end of January has almost gone.

Again and again he saved himself with putting that bordered on the miraculous. After nine holes he had used his putter only ten times — and one of those occasions was

from off the green and so it does not count as a putt in golf statistics. His longest putt was from 60 feet. On one green he did not putt at all, holing from a bunker 15 yards from the flag.

Olazábal birdied the long 2nd by chipping to four feet. At the 3rd he holed from 15 feet. Bunkers were no trouble to him in this mood. On the 4th, he hit his second shot from sand and the ball came to rest five feet from the flag on practically the only flat part of the green.

After getting his par on the

5th by holing from off the green, Olazábal sank a 60-footer on the next green and then one of 15 feet on the 7th, again after exploding from a bunker. A long iron that found the 8th green and two putts from 35 feet were relatively humdrum.

The ninth encapsulated it all. Olazábal's drive went right and his shoulders slumped. He came over the top of his second shot, sending it hooking viciously across the fairway. From there he had to play to the right of the green because a branch blocked his

line to the flag. The ball caught the edge of the green and tumbled down into a bunker from where he holed out. "He gets so negative with himself," Gómez said. "He says 'I hit a bad tee shot, a bad second shot and a bad putt. I don't deserve a birdie.' At dinner on Thursday night he was complaining."

"I told him that Pavin had gone round in 66 and taken 22 putts. You went round in 78 and took 34 putts. If you had taken only 22 putts you, too, would have gone round in 66."

The fourth round was played in an almost flat calm in marked contrast to the wind of the first three days that had made the course so much more difficult than last year. Colin Montgomerie reached the turn in 35, one under par.

After 54 holes Langer and Pavin were five under par; at the same stage last year Norman was 19 under. The average score this year has been 74.648. No one has escaped without mishap. Even Nick Price, the leading player in the world, hit two balls into the water on the 17th in the third round.

These are exactly the sort of conditions in which Langer, who is competing in his eleventh Players' Championship and has yet to miss the cut, does well. While everyone else complains, he just goes out and gets on with it. "Patience is the key," Langer said and he is one of the most patient players of all.

Run-in finds Davies in exalted company

THE Nabisco Dinah Shore is a major championship, the women's equivalent of the Masters, and for the last round at Mission Hills yesterday it had a final group that could scarcely be bettered: Laura Davies, the world No 1, Nancy Lopez, golfing icon revitalised, and Tammie Davis writes.

The only player with three rounds under par, Green, was on 211, five under, two ahead of Lopez and three ahead of Davies. Green said: "I'm not going to trust any of those people behind me," but they knew better than to underestimate her. The first of her four victories was at a major, the duMaurier Classic, and last

year she was runner-up in the US Open.

Lopez, 38, won the last of her 47 titles nearly two years ago but a nagging husband has made her practise more and change her putting stroke. On Saturday, she birdied three of the last six holes and the crowd was ecstatic. "You can tell a Nancy roar from a someone else roar," said Davies, who was happy to have the chance to go one better than last year, when she finished second.

Lopez was Davies' idol and they are good friends. "Last year she was outdriving me with her two-iron," Lopez said. "If I didn't like her so much, she'd intimidate me but I enjoy watching her."

Improving Chester frighten champions

By NICHOLAS HARLING

A SERIES of close games against the leading basketball clubs may not count for much when the time comes for Chester Jets to push their claims for inclusion next season in the Budweiser League. That is the fear of Mike Burton, the coach of the side that came tantalisingly close to ruining the title ambitions of champions, Thames Valley Tigers on Saturday.

"We are very keen to stay in this league," Burton said after Chester's 104-97 defeat. "We're giving people a game."

Since the departure last month of Ed Sneed, Chester

have won three out of six games, compared with only three out of 25 earlier.

Among them, the English trio of Mark Ogley, Anthony Crow and Paul Parry, and Binky Johnson, the American that Sneed left behind, collected 13 of the game's 20 three-pointers but the Jets still failed to capitalise on Dave Gardner's marksmanship.

His score of 27 points was bettered only by Peter Scantlebury's 31 for the Tigers, who trailed 89-88 with three minutes left. They sank the next ten points to add to the frustration of Burton, who incurred a technical offence for complaining.

Tigers' success increased the pressure on the leaders, Sheffield Sharks, who went down 96-82 to a Manchester Giants' squad deprived of their playmaker, Mark Robinson, because of a one-game ban. Robinson's fellow American, Cam Johnson, hit 39 points to lead his side to victory.

Nigel Lloyd did even better. The Barbadian collected 50 points to help Birmingham Bullets overwhelm Sunderland Scorpions 119-88.

Another high scorer was Alan Cunningham, the Worthing Bears' player-coach, whose 40 points helped to send Hemel Hempstead Royals to a 112-104 defeat. Doncaster Panthers ended a run of five defeats by winning 93-83 at Derby Bucks.

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سكيا في الالپين

McKiernan forced to settle again for silver

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

POLITELY waiting until Catherina McKiernan had given her last interview after the world cross country championships in Durham on Saturday, Frank Sando introduced himself to Ireland's silver medal-winner. "I won the men's race 40 years ago," Sando said. McKiernan, not knowing what to say, but not wishing to appear uninterested, asked where he had won and if there had been any Kenyans running. The conversation ended there.

McKiernan may have been tempted to talk longer had Sando opened by mentioning that he, too, knew how it felt to be runner-up. He had experienced it three times; though, to answer McKiernan's question, without a Kenyan in sight. On Saturday, Kenya won the men's and women's team titles, both convincingly. McKiernan was reflecting on how, for the fourth world championships in succession, she had finished second, not haunted by the brilliance of one dominant woman but beaten each time by a different winner. First by Lynn Jennings, of the United States, in 1992, then Alessandra Dias, of Portugal, in 1993, then Helen Chepnego, of Kenya, in 1994, and now Derartu Tulu, of Ethiopia, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion.

McKiernan smiled through a dozen interviews, insisting she was "happy to be second again". Her sentiments seemed genuine but some measure of disappointment was registered by her insistence that she would keep trying until she won.

Problems with flight tickets and visas resulted in the Ethiopians reaching Durham shortly before midnight on Friday. Tulu won regardless but Haile Gebrselassie, the one athlete thought capable of

denying Kenya the individual senior men's title, said he felt weary. Gebrselassie, though, was up against Kenya's elaborate team tactics.

The simplified version is that Simeon Rono and Gideon Chirchir were told to set the early pace, then, as the lead group thinned out, Ismael Kirui and James Songok were under instructions to deliver a victory for Paul Tergat. Kirui's surges, and Songok's line, were designed to keep Gebrselassie guessing.

Kirui was the red herring who broke clear soon after halfway. As the highest achiever in the Kenyan squad, Gebrselassie would assume that Kirui was the one chosen for victory. But the Kenyan strategy had reserved the honour for Tergat. When Tergat advanced, Gebrselassie could not respond.

Kenya took their tenth successive men's team title. They won the other three team races as well — senior women, junior women and junior men. Assefa Mezgebu, of Ethiopia, won the junior men's race and Annemari Sandell, of Finland, the junior women's title, the only non-African winner.

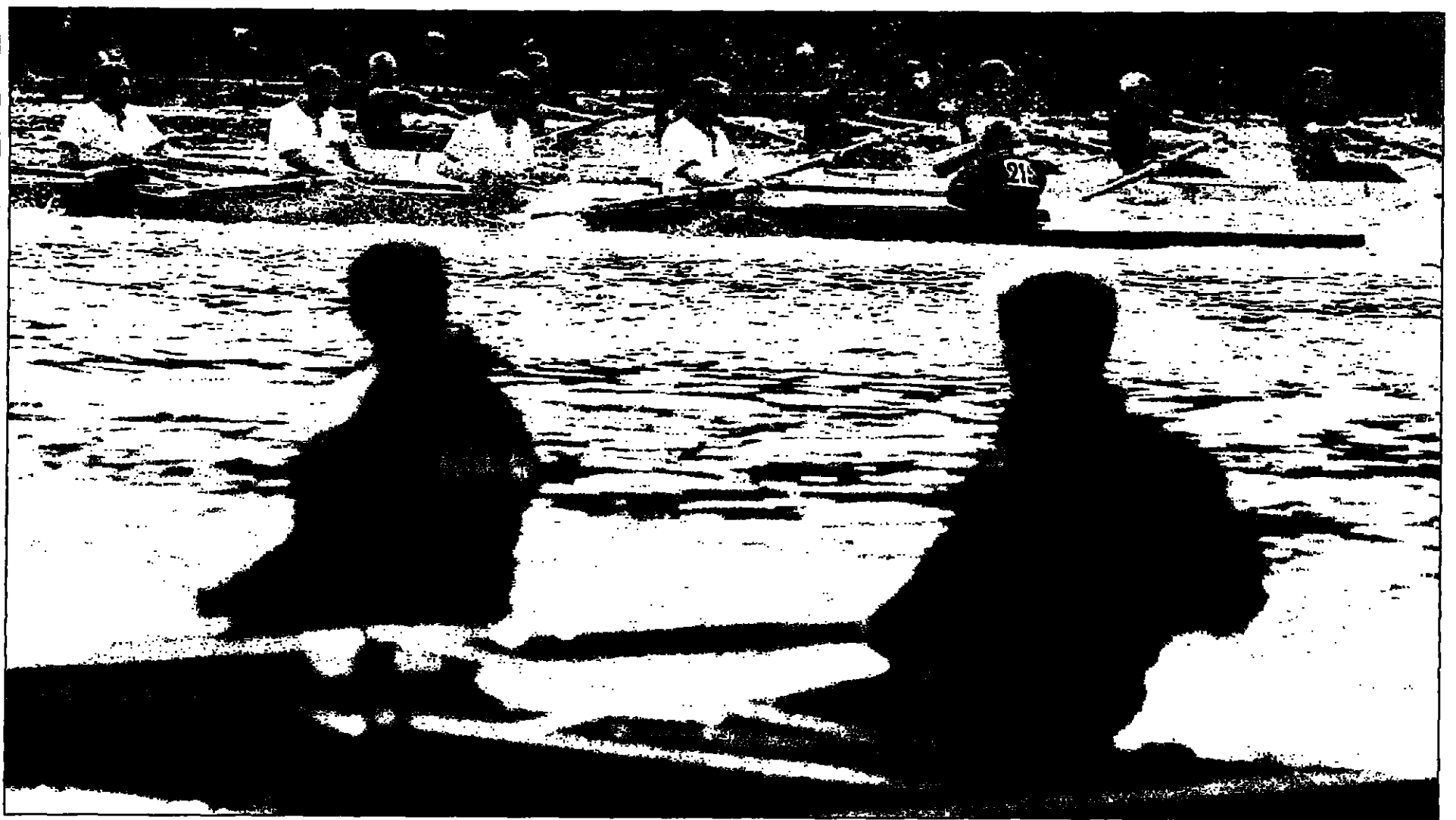
Sandell had to admit to a Kenyan assist. She had spent seven weeks in Kenya, the last four at their squad training camp in Embu. She trained three times a day with the Kenyans and, even in Durham, roomed with a Kenyan. Sandell might not have won had the best two Kenyan juniors, Sally Barsosio and Rose Cheruiyot, not run in the senior race, each believing she could win. Barsosio was third and Cheruiyot, eighth. Paula Radcliffe, of Britain, paid on an agonising final lap for her attempt to stay with Tulu and McKiernan, falling back to eighteenth. Nevertheless, she was the best-placed Briton in any race.

Britain's collective performance — senior teams, ninth, junior women, sixth, junior men, fifteenth — represented only a slight improvement on the record low of last year. The British Athletic Federation got what it deserved: entertaining championships for the effort put into hosting them and a place among the also-rans on the pitch, which will continue to be so until the federation initiates a plan to improve standards.



Tulu: victorious

Results, page 32



Crews competing in the Head of the River race, over four and a half miles from Mortlake to Putney, battle for supremacy. Photograph: Marc Aspland

Olympians and novices all in the same boat

Andrew Longmore sees 420 eights descend on the Thames seeking glory in the Head of the River race



I know I heard the words correctly, the first uttered by the cox of boat No 400 as her crew took to the Tideway. "Don't panic," Jo Atkinson cried, though she had every right to as she contemplated the eight eager, tense faces in front of her and the task they had set themselves for a bright and breezy morning on the Thames.

"A bit like playing your first game of football in the sixth round of the FA Cup," one member of the Bewdley third eight had described it. But then that is the joy of the Head of the River race. It is a day for big and little, for proud provincial clubs like Bewdley, from the West Midlands, to measure themselves against the rich city slickers.

In just over two hours, like a video on fast forward, the whole evolutionary scale of rowing passes down the river in one relentless game of chase. 420 crews of eight, 420 coxes, 3,780 athletes, reputedly the biggest gathering of oarsmen in the world, certainly the widest range of talent, from Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent in the Leander Club first eight, through the Holland national eight, second in the world championships last year, and a whole retinue of club eights, to Rob Parker, Martin Green and the Bewdley thirds, generously described as seniors in the

programme, but true novices in heart and mind.

Green took up rowing only last November. This was his first race, four and a half miles from Mortlake to Putney, the Boat Race course in reverse, one of the most fickle stretches of water in rowing. "I think they call it being thrown in at the deep end," he said.

It was just as well he had not listened to John Hinton's account of his first Head or he would have drowned in his own sweat before the start. "The worst experience in my life," Hinton, now a stalwart of the Bewdley first eight, recalled. "It hailed, the wind blew a gale, it was tougher than you could ever imagine, a nightmare, but we survived and the strange thing is you want to do it all over again the next year. The event just has an aura about it." At least the weather was passable; chilly,

but not the worst the Tideway could muster.

Survival was about the extent of Bewdley thirds' ambitions. You could tell from the way their boat was precariously propped up on two Menopollen. Police coxes, the patchwork quilt of a repair to the bow, the result of a recent collision, or the way Geoff Durrant crossed his fingers tightly when questioned about the seaworthiness of his craft.

As the least experienced member of the eight, Green was particularly nervous. "I'm just conscious of not wanting to let the others down," he said. But nothing could dampen their spirits. If they moved

up one place from 400th, they would ensure automatic selection for next year. The thought was not uppermost in their minds during Atkinson's succinct pre-race pep talk. "All you have to do is look good coming round Hammersmith Bend and down to the finish. Oh, and don't stop rowing until I tell you," Atkinson said.

At roughly the same time as Bewdley thirds were committing their rickety boat to the river, more exalted names were four and a half miles upstream preparing to put their club, Leander, back on top of the pile. For Redgrave and Pinsent, the Olympic gold

medal-winners, the race is a welcome change from their usual schedule, a mark of winter's passing. Redgrave cannot remember how many Heads he has rowed. He has won nine of them.

But, an hour after the race, his mind had already moved onto the summer, when he and Pinsent will once more stake out their territory in the last full season before the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

An injury to his shoulder ligaments, suffered during a Leander rugby match just before Christmas, has caused three lost weeks of training and some anxiety, quite apart from a permanent lump at the top of the collar-bone. "We take the Heads quite seriously, but sometimes I think, 'What am I doing here?' because the weather is usually rubbish and it's certainly not fun."

Just how hard, Parker, stroke of Bewdley thirds, was discovering at that very moment. Having navigated their way sedately down the river, Parker chose the finishing stretch, right in front of the boathouses on the Putney Embankment, to fall off his seat. Even later, he could not quite work out how it had happened, but the resulting confusion was caught on video by the Bewdley camp and will doubtless qualify Parker for a "golden boat" award at the club's annual dinner.

Still, he did better than the cox of the Thames Rowing Club first eight, who collided with a launch outside his own boathouse. And there was no mistaking the elation felt by the crew when their rite of passage was complete, an improvement of 45 places to 355th and a contrast to the grim faces of the Leander crew, who were bitterly disappointed to be beaten by the Holland national eight.

"That was a real buzz," Green said. "I just couldn't believe how quickly it went. It felt like 10 minutes not 20. I think I went through the pain barrier three times at least."

Durrant, a policeman, who had spent the previous night on patrol in the suburbs of Birmingham and had not been to sleep for 36 hours, was almost too tired to speak. But both will be back to do it all again next year.

Germans from Munster just after Hammersmith.

Waiting for the results proved tense for Steve Ellis, the new Imperial College coach. His first crew, in which he rows at seven, was provisionally placed third. There was then a debate about a ten-second penalty for an infringement before the start. It was imposed, Imperial College appealed and it was withdrawn.

Results, page 32

Ellis steers steady course to unique double

SUZIE ELLIS, the captain of Thames Rowing Club, entered the history books on Saturday when she became the first cox to steer a winning crew in the men's Head of the River just two weeks after doing the same in the women's Head (Mike Rosewell writes).

In the women's Head, she coxed a British squad crew to a 26-second win over its German equivalent. On Saturday, she steered the Dutch national squad to victory by three seconds over

Leander, a crew of British senior internationals including Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent.

The Dutch, with five of their silver medal world championship crew on board, were pleased with her efforts. Leander, on unofficial watches, were three seconds up at Hammersmith Bridge and it was the final mile and a half that clinched the title for the Dutch. Leander themselves looked impressive, starting second and overtaking the

Germans from Munster just after Hammersmith.

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Results, page 32

Narrow win sees St Albans regain senior status

By SYDNEY FRISKIN

ST ALBANS won the second division of the National Hockey League yesterday by virtue of their 2-1 home victory over Bromley, with whom they were relegated at the end of last season.

Goals by Deeks and Pell from short corners in the 59th and sixtieth minutes put St Albans ahead and in the 67th minute Holmes scored from a short corner for Bromley, who had missed a chance of taking the lead in the 47th minute when a penalty stroke from Haines was saved by Chater.

The first division, by contrast, remains wide open and when the

competition ends next week, Teddington, Reading and Cannock could all have the same number of points. Teddington's task seems the least arduous as they have only one match to play, whereas Reading and Cannock have two.

Teddington, who had beaten Indian Gymkhana 1-0 on Saturday, retained their position at the top of the table with yesterday's 3-0 away win over Havant. Billson scoring from a short corner in the ninth minute and Laslett and Grobler adding a goal apiece to seal victory before the interval.

Cannock followed a 5-1 away win over Hull on Saturday with a 3-0

victory at home over Hounslow, the goals coming from Sharpe, from a short corner, in the first half and Hughes-Rowlands and Mills in the second. Reading maintained their challenge with a 2-1 away victory over Hull yesterday with Keovil and Ashdown their scorers.

Two goals scored nearly 200 miles apart opened up the race for the second division title in the women's national league (Alix Ramsay writes).

On Saturday morning Olton were clinging to the top, ahead of Sunderland and Loughborough Students on goal difference. But a single penalty corner strike at Sunderland by Chris

Fisher proved sufficient to knock Olton off their perch.

At Loughborough, the students scuffed a 1-0 victory over St Albans, thanks to a Fiona Greenham penalty corner and trail Sunderland by a goal difference of only one.

In the top flight of the premier division there were more goals but less at stake. Despite taking a hammering at the hands of the champions, Slough, Bracknell still managed to avoid relegation. Instead Chelmsford are on their way down after losing 2-0 to Leicester.

Results, page 32

Great value if you know what's going on

I was a full house but Joe Public was not at the British Open squash championships in Cardiff on Saturday. He would have been spotted easily in the crowd of 2,000 or so enthusiasts. A "walk-in" type would have stood out like a beer stomach in that assemblage, the average age of which was no more than 30. Even the older members had their healthy, sharp-eyed-towel-round-the-neck-just-come-off-the-court look. The only pear shapes were the rackets.

The last time this pear shape went to a squash match was 40 years ago at the Lansdowne Club in the days when the nightingales sang in Berkeley square and Hashim Khan and his brother Azam Khan and cousin Roshan used to play at the Lansdowne. I was mistaken then for one of the Khans by a player, so it was flattering to be taken for a former player again on Saturday. "You are an ex-champion," said a man who turned out to be Kim Magnus, Iceland's No 1 and the world's number 100-plus.

In between sessions I had the chance of looking round the exhibition stands. Pointing to some rackets that

looked like snow shoes, I asked the man from Fin Worldwide what had happened to the round squash rackets. "Oh, those, sir?" he said. "If I turned up on a court with one of those how would I look?" I asked. "You would look stupid... I mean out of date, sir."

Everyone in the hall seemed to have a reason for being there. They had come not so much to root as to watch the best in the world at work and learn. Apart from a "come on, Peter!" or an "ouch!" an "aah!" or "well played!" they watched every move as intently as chess players. Cheers were

Srikumar Sen sees why squash championships attract crowds mainly from people who play

reserved for in between the games.

The event was wonderful value and could not have been better presented. For £15 you could see six semi-finals, three women's and three men's, from 12 noon to 8pm. The programme, costing £2.50, was one of the most impressive I have seen. A 50-page

affair. For that price you also received the International Squash magazine, another expensive-looking glossy, ideal for those outside the game who aspire to instant expertise.

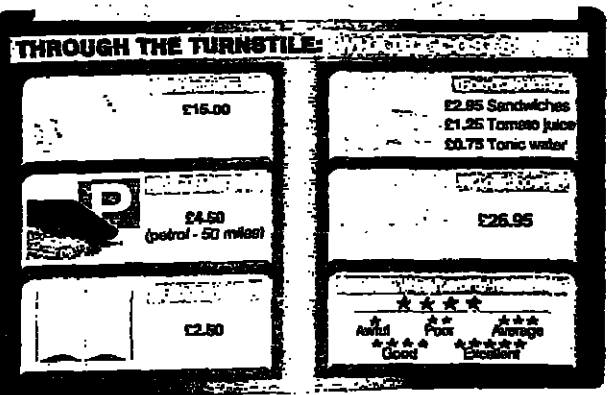
It was a pity the public missed it. Even though it was the first British Open to be held outside England, the non-playing South Wales received little encouragement from *The Western Mail*, to attend. The squash faithful, while not exactly gutted, were disappointed. But it has to be said that eight hours of watching contestants battle it out in a Perspex box in the middle of the arena is not really for the uninitiated. What's the difference between a boast and an Aussie boast? If you don't understand it, the game is all too quick to follow. All the players seem to be doing the clever things as quickly and as well as each other, so how was Jansher Khan better than Peter Marshall, or Brett Martin or Peter Nicol? The magazine told you.

A chartered surveyor, who had come from Stoke-on-Trent with some of his club friends, said that squash had become a minority sport because of the recession and

because it was a specialist game. He put the lack of public interest in it down to its not being ideal for television.

"It's too fast," he said. "The cameras are in a fixed position, unlike tennis. Have you seen it on television? Everything looks so easy, it's boring. It looks easy, but you try it!" It seemed to me that even though squash might appear repetitive on the screen, if the sport had a character the public could love or hate, like Frank Bruno or Gazza or McEnroe, its appeal would grow. After all, what could be more boring than watching Bruno knock out specially imported opponents? But they always come back for more.

It was a pity that the Cardiff International Arena's (CIA) catering services did not match up to the occasion. Sandwiches cost between £2 and £3. The CIA bar was altogether too small for the crowds during the 15-minute break between the two sessions. It ran out of sandwiches well before the end and many people had to go to Sukharan Singh Gill's delicatessen a couple of blocks away for nourishment. Suki's tuna sandwich was not only far better, it cost only 95p.



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By LOUISE TAYLOR

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

Smith, of Gillingham, left struggles for control under pressure from David Cooper, the Exeter defender.

Simon Barnes hears take-over talk and sees Gillingham beat fellow strugglers Exeter 3-0

BY PAT GIBSON

By WALTER GAMMIE

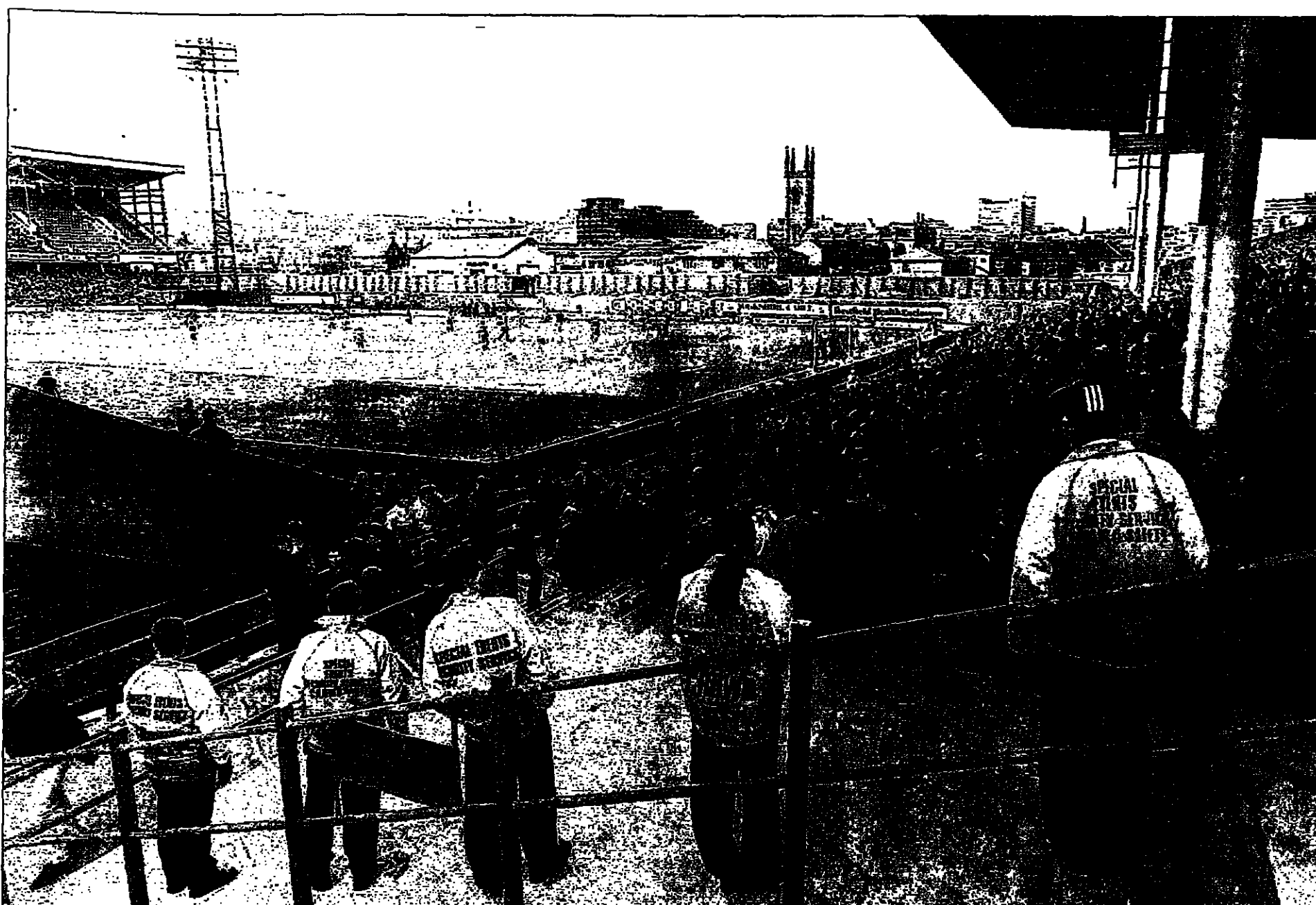
Results and league tables..... Page 28

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ONE REPORT

071-328 1228
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First division promotion rivals frustrated by distractions on and off the field



Bramall Lane housed Britain's largest football crowd on Saturday when Reading were the visitors on the Endsleigh League's "National Family Day". Photograph: Justin Slee

Hislop holds up United's progress

Through the bleak drizzle of Bramall Lane, the neon scoreboard constantly urged the largest crowd for a football match in the British Isles on Saturday to give blood. The request was literal, but indeed the people who support football at this level below the riches of the FA Cup and Premiership are sometimes asked to give blood to the flagging game.

Here were Sheffield United and Reading, sides with realistic ambitions to make at least the end-of-season play-offs in the first division. Here were 19,241 people, a crowd boosted on the Endsleigh Insurance League's "National Family Day" by the enticement of each adult being allowed to bring along a child free. The lifeblood of the game indeed. As, once it began, there was never the wholehearted commitment to entertainment that had been there before the kick-off, there before the circus clowns vacated the pitch. Bramall Lane is a symbol of what is a lower league built on hope rather than substance. For when Sheffield United went down, relegated from the Premiership in the last minute of the last day of last season, the finances to rebuild the stadium ran out. Consequently, Bramall Lane is a three-sided edifice, three magnificent all-seated stands, squared by an empty building plot, the



Rob Hughes on how the Reading goalkeeper rose above the crowd in a 1-1 draw at busy Bramall Lane

old stand levelled, the new one no more in prospect than money to inject into a team which, a week ago, could not even afford a £250,000 bid for Ray Houghton, a player whose touch of class may just have given the workmanlike, energetic United a midfield what it needed to reach up to the promised land.

Yet Reading, attempting to leap-frog straight from the second division to the Premiership, came, looked around, and saw a crowd almost three times their own last home game at Elm Park, a tight, forlorn little stadium, that would have no hope of satisfying the need or the greed of the Premiership clubs. And so the latest future in Reading concerns a proposal, from the chairman, John Madejski, to play some of their matches next season, should the miracle of a second promotion occur, down the M4-M40 corridor at London stadiums.

The match on Saturday suggested that the furnace of Sheffield football, a furnace at times reduced to the flicker of a candle in the wind, could consume Reading's hopes. The southern team had come with either of its player-managers, Jimmy Quinn or Mick Gooding, able to perform. Quinn was not released by Northern Ireland. Gooding was suspended and, adding to injuries that have robbed them for months of the Wales inter-

national defender, Adrian Williams, and the midfield player, Simon Osborn, resources are to say the least scant.

Resources in this whole division are lacking: Wolverhampton Wanderers is the one club with sufficient finances, and a resplendent stadium, to cope in a higher league. But there is not an outstanding team, any two of eight could still win the lottery of promotion, and for 90 minutes we wondered why it should not be Sheffield United.

With the directness and vigour of teams organised by Dave Bassett, they were first to the ball. They created four clear chances, and scored once. The reason? Neil "Shaka" Hislop, the Reading goalkeeper, the one player in his entire division who has reasonable expectations of performing in the top flight next season, for whatever club. At 6ft 6in, this 26-year-old, of Trinidadian stock has cat-like reflexes. He demonstrated them in the second minute, diving low to

push out a shot from Starbuck. Hislop then kept Reading in the game with a remarkable reaction save from Black from barely two yards. And in the closing moments the goalkeeper used his legs to deny Nathan Blake.

But Blake had been the one opportunist to beat him, capitalising on an error from the Pole, Wdowczyk, in the 53rd minute, starting face to face against the on-rushing Hislop, and with almost a nonchalant use of the left foot rolling it past the goalkeeper, inside the

Reading is £2 million in Madejski's debt, that he contends is more than enough, and the sugar-daddy emergence in the game is, in Madejski's eyes, "vulgar".

He, a proud resident of Reading rather than an impressionable follower of the game, became disillusioned when his club manager, Mark McGhee, defected to Leicester City at Christmas time; he did not design to drive any of his magnificent stable of cars to Bramall Lane, where Reg Brealey, the embattled chairman of Sheffield United, summoned the local press at half-time to tell them he would be rushing away at the end, there

would be a statement next week. A statement? It could be anything or nothing.

For five years Brealey has talked of selling the club. Five years without a buyer, years in which his struggles with a huge company in Calcutta have come to a sad end, Brealey's extradition being sought on matters relating to the disappearing pensions of workers.

Curiously, this is more than familiar to Reading FC. For this is the twelfth anniversary of the time that Robert Maxwell attempted to force Reading and Oxford United to amalgamate, force each of them to forgo what is the real lifeblood in football, parochial fervour, and form "the Thames Valley Royals". The Royals of Reading responded, through Madejski, by outstripping Oxford in status ... a club formerly known as the biscuitmen until the biscuit factory went bust, it now must ponder its future. It could be a homeless one with a foot in the Premiership, or it could be back in the first division, its very nickname, "the Royals", a misnomer. For the Royal County of Berkshire is soon to be abolished.

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Bolton's class nullified by human failing

Russell Kempson watches Portsmouth battle back for a 1-1 draw with Bolton Wanderers

Footballers are only human, as the worst excesses of the past month have proved. Although many are flattered, pampered and placed on a pedestal, they can be cast aside equally swiftly.

At Fratton Park on Saturday, Bolton Wanderers spent 45 minutes enhancing a reputation that has grown steadily in recent seasons and now oozes potential from every pore. Never needing to break sweat, never extending themselves beyond the competent, they leant into the swirling gale and stroked the ball to and fro with calculated, almost arrogant, ease.

McAteer, the Ireland mid-field player, may possess an ungainly stride, may find himself enticed into areas he would not normally consider, but his athleticism and enthusiasm must be eternally encouraged. Seizing on a loose pass from Radosavjevic, in the twelfth minute, he galloped onwards, covering 50 yards, before crossing for Paatelainen to sweep home.

Stubbs, the England B centre back, is to be treasured, too, and will also be much courted if Bolton make the transition, as expected, from Endsleigh Insurance League first division to FA Cup Premiership in May. He is composed well beyond his 23 years, he uses strength without cynicism and carries the ball forward with confidence. A rare breed.

Yet with the job done, apparently, and with the blustery elements in their favour, Bolton opted for consolidation. Victory appeared to be secure and thoughts of the Coca Cola Cup appointment with Liverpool at Wembley eight days hence began to infiltrate. A natural and understandable, if irritating and unprofessional reaction.

Bruce Rioch, the Bolton manager, was not impressed. "He gave us a bit of a roasting in the dressing room," Stubbs, the Bolton captain, said. "He reckoned some of us might have been thinking about the Liverpool game and I suppose he had a valid point. From where he sits, he can see more than us. He can see what's really happening. We're all looking forward to Wembley, obviously, but our main aim has still got to be promotion."

Portsmouth's prime objective is avoiding relegation and, sensing Bolton's sudden lack of intent, they snapped into gear. Eight minutes into the second half, Creaney scrambled in his 21st goal of the season from Dumplin's cross. From the Royal County of Berkshire is soon to be abolished.

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He, a proud resident of Reading rather than an impressionable follower of the game, became disillusioned when his club manager, Mark McGhee, defected to Leicester City at Christmas time; he did not design to drive any of his magnificent stable of cars to Bramall Lane, where Reg Brealey, the embattled chairman of Sheffield United, summoned the local press at half-time to tell them he would be rushing away at the end, there

the sporadic pressure before launching a late surge when Paatelainen and Coyle squandered openings.

"We're a better side than we were last season," Stubbs said. "We're a year further on, we've played together more and it shows. We've got quality everywhere in the team and other players can come in from the squad and do an excellent job as well. That makes a big difference."

Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, is an admirer. "Bolton are the best side in the league," he said. "No doubt about it. I'm just glad we fought back so well after giving away such a sloppy goal. We at least showed a bit of character."

No Wembley for Fenwick this year, first division survival will suffice, but Rioch can contemplate a delightful day out on Sunday, a forerunner of what may lie ahead next season and a test, under stress and spotlight, of the true abilities of his young players. Liverpool will start odds-on favourites for the Coca-Cola



McAteer: breakthrough

prize but should beware the emerging Wanderers.

Every footballing force, whether embryonic or established, needs its share of good fortune and Bolton claimed theirs on the stroke of half-time, when Thompson, having fallen in the penalty area, inadvertently scooped the ball away with a hand.

The view of Clive Wilkes, the referee, was obscured, and though Martin Sims, his linesman, was nicely positioned, he also ignored the Portsmouth appeals. Two weeks ago, Sims was called into action as a substitute referee in the Premiership match between West Ham United and Norwich City at Upton Park and, in a bizarre case of mistaken identity, sent off Johnson, of Norwich, instead of Prior, his team-mate. Linesmen are human, too.

PORTSMOUTH (4-4-2): R. Fenwick, J. Gibbs, B. Krastev, R. Russell, P. Radosavjevic (sub: S. Dooly, 78min), J. Durkin, D. Powell, J. Jones — G. Creaney, P. Hail.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): K. Stubbs, S. Gendron, M. Thompson, N. McDonald (sub: D. Lee, 72), R. Snodgrass, A. Thompson, G. Coyle, M. Paatelainen. Referee: C. Wilkes.

Scales of justice tip in favour of Oldham

Oldham Athletic 1
Derby County 0

By Peter Ball

OVER the years, as Arsenal and Leeds United, among others, know to their cost, Oldham has provided a formidable hurdle for grandees. Derby County became the latest team with pretensions to stumble at Boundary Park, their five-game winning run coming to an end against Oldham Athletic on Saturday before most of their rivals for a place in the Endsleigh Insurance League first division play-offs had finished lunch.

Boundary Park is now an all-seated stadium, but the little shed behind one corner flag is more characteristic than the new executive boxes. The wind still whistles off the Pennines, and the pitch is like an estuary with the tide out.

The dry weather of the previous week at least ensured that it was not like the quagmire of last season, but Derby found the humpy surface as big a problem as the Oldham's relentless harrrying. "The pitch doesn't allow good playing conditions: we knew it was going to be a scrap, and we battled hard,"

quoted at £4 million, a turn-around in the fortunes of a defender who at first struggled to justify his £2.5 million fee when he moved to Derby from Notts County.

On Saturday, Short looked tentative; he was not the only one. At the other end it was Marco Gabbiadini who struggled from the opening minutes when he brushed through Redmond's tackle but elected to go alone rather than try to find Lee Mills, and the chance was lost.

Derby knew it was going to be that sort of day from the moment Richard Graham, alone in front of goal, turned the ball in. Ken Lupton, the referee, decided that the ball had been played to him by, rather than deflecting off, a Derby defender, and the goal stood.

That was not the most striking of Mr Lupton's decisions. A moment of sheer farce in the second half took the palm. Simpson fisted the ball back into play from behind the byline. Gerrard put the ball down for a goal kick and Pembroke promptly dispatched it into the net.

After much toing and froing, Mr Lupton, directed by a linesman in the other half of the field, gave a free kick for handball against Simpson. And so a sort of justice was done. But do not tell that to Derby.

OLDHAM ATHLETIC (4-4-2): P. Gerrard — I. Snodgrass, S. Webster, S. Redmond, N. Parton — G. Hail, R. Graham, P. Barrard, M. Brennan — N. Bangor, S. McCarthy (sub: A. Reddin, 78min), J. Hail, J. Kennedy, R. D. Yates, G. Short, J. Hartley — P. Williams — M. Pembroke, P. Trickle, P. Simpson — M. Gabbiadini, I. Mills (sub: D. Wicks, 80min). Referee: K. Lupton.

Dixon pays early dividend

Before the transfer deadline a year ago, Millwall's manager signed what is known in the trade as a proven goalkeeper. The upshot of this seemingly impressive transaction was that Clive Allen did not score once. That was pointed out to Mick McCarthy in no understated way last week when he acquired Kerry Dixon, a nomad of a certain age.

Whatever he achieves with Millwall, and he intends to achieve a great deal, Dixon's name will be forever synonymous with Chelsea and England. How many will remember in the years to come that he once played for Luton Town? At the age of 33 he was regarded by their manager as worth only a nominal fee, which was how he came to join Millwall.

What a useful signing he has already proved to be. This was a pretty dreadful match, but his goal evinced it. The wind and a sloppy defence played a part. Van Blerk's left-footed corner dropping nicely on to Dixon's head. But to surmise that this was a straightforward goal would have been to neglect the art of positional sense.

Booyed by this, Millwall gained a further goal through Robert's low drive past an unsighted Nixon eight minutes later and, although Malkin regained some self-esteem after various missed opportunities, the outcome was not in doubt. After four successive defeats, it was a victory Millwall greatly needed.

They purposefully played what McCarthy termed "a more direct game than usual", a euphemism for betting the ball upfield towards Dixon. Once, when Van Blerk did

reach the byline, his cross was hit at shin height towards the near post, where Dixon flicked it wide. But this was a rare moment of intelligence.

This was the top match in London on Saturday, yet the crowd, 7,470, was one of the club's lowest of the season. Its form would have had something to do with this, as would the temporary closure of the East London Tube line. For years, Alan Gibson would regale us on these pages with the hazards of journeying on British

Rail via Didcot and its unexploded bombs. The inconveniences were much the same now.

As for Tranmere Rovers, the joke about their buckling down to the annual task of avoiding promotion is, alas, not far from the truth. They have in Aldridge a goalkeeper of greater venerability and ability than Dixon, yet gave him nothing in the way of through balls, crosses or even half-chances.

Tranmere's lack of form away from home is about as mystifying as their domination at Prenton Park. John King, their genial manager, does not mess around with different formations, which must have something to do with it. To see them in the FA Cup Premiership is to see one constant struggle.

In McCarthy's estimation, there are better teams looking for promotion. But he expects Tranmere to contest the play-offs, for of their eight remaining matches, five are at home. These opponents include Middlesbrough and Wolverhampton Wanderers, both fixtures coming at the very end of the season.

"I told the players last August that come Easter we wanted to be in the top six," King said defiantly. "and my thoughts have not changed." For him, success is for Tranmere to participate in the same division as Liverpool and Everton. As usual, this is beginning to look like a pipe dream.



Dixon: debut goal

Luton enriched by potential of Davis

Luton Town 1
Watford 1

By Keith Pux

BEFORE kick-off yesterday, both teams harboured hopes of a place in the first division play-offs, and they will not have entirely abandoned them yet, although neither could really afford to drop two points. But it is an ambition unlikely to be fulfilled this or perhaps any other season.

With football's rich raking in money in increasingly disproportionate amounts, it is probable that local derbies such as these between the relatively impoverished are destined forever to be fought within the confines of the Endsleigh Insurance League.

Luton Town, ahead after just four minutes, in the end needed the benevolence of the referee and the stunning reflexes of a teenage goalkeeper to share the spoils in a typically hectic Home Counties derby. Yet it required only a glance at the line-ups from their meetings last season to recognise why neither side is competing on a level playing field.

Watford's attack, then led by Furlong and Dyer — a combination that cost Premiership clubs £3.5 million to break up — now comprised Quinn, a loan signing nearing the end of his career, and Phillips, a £10,000 recruit from Baldock Town, and where Luton had Hartson to aim for until

Arsenal paid £2.2 million for him in January they now had Taylor, who cost only the sum to the right of the decimal point on transfer deadline day. It was not hard to spot the next potential crop of money-earners yesterday.

For Luton, Kevin Davis took the eye. Eighteen and making his home debut in goal only because Sommer was on duty with the United States, he was safe if largely untroubled until the 64th minute when Watford's pressure was rewarded with an equaliser. Then the youngster stole the show.

Davis needed Kevin Breen's tolerant interpretation of FIFA's edicts when, two minutes later, he traced off his line to bring Beadle down as the Watford substitute threatened to score with his first touch. A yellow card was followed by an agile penalty save from Porter's firmly struck shot and almost immediately by an even better one-handed effort to keep out Phillips's header.

Phillips, 21, until recently stacking televisions in an electrical store, had earlier poached his fifth goal in six starts to cancel out the early lead Telfer had given Luton. "He is one for the future," Glenn Roder, the Watford manager, said. "He can go as far as he wants his ability to take him."

LUTON TOWN (4-4-2): K. Davis — J. Jones, T. Patten, M. Johnson, R. Harvey — J. Telfer, G. Watford, D. Preece, R. Matthews (sub: A. Thorpe, 78min), J. Taylor, G. Mervin — G. Lewis, C. Foster, K. Miller, G. Porter — A. Henshaw, R. Johnson, G. Thompson, D. Payne — M. Quinn (sub: P. Beadle, 66), K. Phillips. Referee: K. Breen.

By JOHN GOODBODY

The event contested yesterday was organised by the south-west region of the British Amateur Weightlifters' As-

Results, page 32
Photograph, page 32

Results, page 32
Photograph, page 32



Alison Kervin reports on the choice between school and country facing two young players

The drama was heightened when one elected to play for country and the other for his school. For Ewens, loyalties and valued friendships corrupted the simplicity of the decision to take his place in the England line-up. "I knew straight away I would play for the school and not England. I

Alan Martinovic, the deputy head of Colston's and a fellow coach, said: "He had to play for Bath because they had an extremely important match. It is always difficult when you have split loyalties but it happens a lot. The boys had a

and a conversion, and to superior forward power. It was not a brilliant display of rugby as their coach, Geoff Wappett, conceded. Nervousness brought on by the occasion tainted the performance but it was a sound victory.

Scotland scored the try of the day when James Craig

England's next match is against Wales on Wednesday. "Before you ask, there is absolutely no doubt in any one's mind that Joe Ewens is up for selection," pre-empted Wappett. "His decision ... in no way affects his future selection."

Wigan	48
Oldham	20

To make the handling errors Wigan did and still score nine tries said more about Oldham's suicidal tendency than the holders' killer instinct.

Full results and league tables Page 32

Full results and league tables Page 32

With apologies to Featherstone Rovers, Leeds might at least give Wigan a proper examination on April 29. West does not mind who they play. "I've not had anything to do with Wembley since winning there as a player with Wigan in 1988," he said. "I'm looking forward to it, definitely."

SCORES: Wigan: Tries: Connolly (3), Betts (2), Tulgamate (2), Edwards, Mather. Goals: Botica (4). Oldham: Tries: Betts (2), Sherratt. Bradbury. Goals: Marsh (2).

WIGAN: H. Paul, J. Robinson, V. Tulgamate, G. Connolly, M. Offish (sub: B-J Mather, 25min); F. Botica, S. Edwards; K. Sherratt (sub: A. Farrell, 34), M. Hall, N. Cowie, D. Betts, M. Cassidy, P. Clarke.

OLDHAM: W. Gibson, A. Belle, P. Topping, D. Abram, S. Ranson (sub: D. Bradbury, 32); W. Marsh, M. Crompton, I. Sherratt (sub: C. Richards, 24), D. Stephenson, J. Ternu, G. Lord, J. Farnham, M. Kuti.

Referee: R. Smith.

Late tries by Daniel Diver and Neil Roebuck down the slope at Post Office Road clinched a 34-27 home victory. Leeds, Featherstone's opponents at Elland Road, recovered from two defeats in four days by winning 30-10 at Bradford Northern.

In their faltering charge for promotion from the second division, Keighley Cougars lost 12-2 at Carlisle. Batley, a point behind in second place, handed Leigh a 78-22 defeat.

sociation and held at Hartcliffe School. Competition was in three age categories — under-16, under-14 and under-13.

The youngest female winner of an English native title, when she was 13, she only just missed competing against her mother, Mary, who was national champion in 1989. Her father, Alex, is not a weightlifter. "He just sits and chews his nails while they are competing," Jim Mason, the coach said.

Christabel goes to the St John Fisher School and is hoping to do a performing arts course at Huddersfield Youth

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

<p>THURIFICATION</p> <p>a. Immortalising b. Conferous undergrowth c. Making incense</p>	<p>ANTANAGOGUE</p> <p>a. A counter-charge b. A first-century heretic c. Flowing upstream</p>
<p>BUMBLEPUPPY</p> <p>a. A baegle b. A ball game c. A clumsy but well-meaning man</p>	<p>KAMICHI</p> <p>a. A bird b. Bonsai arrangement c. A short sword</p>

Answers page 41

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene


This position is from the game Dervishi - Cruceli, Berne 1995.

White has placed his pieces in an aggressive posture on the kingside and has now cashed in with a neat combination. Can you see what he played?

Solution, page 41


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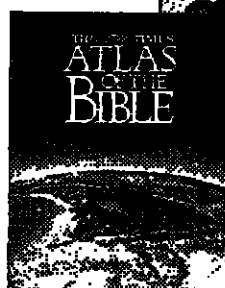
hand, will wrap up a sixth defeat.

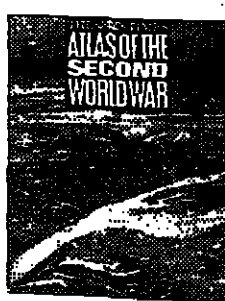
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FOR THE RECORD

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RUGBY LEAGUE

Second division											
Basley	78	Leigh	22			Kesley	P	W	D	L	F
Basley: Tries: Walker 3, Mirin 2, Thornton 2, Chidd, Crook, Gordon, Hargreaves, Moon						London Broncos	19	6	2	5	758
London Thornton, Wilson, Gosses, Brown 13						Hull K R	25	16	1	8	690
Leigh: Tries: Denton, Ingram, Jhu, Mulvey, Gosses: Fanning 3, At 1,182.						Whitehaves	25	16	1	8	690
Carlisle 12	12	Kesley 2	2			Derbyshire	23	15	0	8	574
Carlisle: Tries: Manning, Russell, Gosses: Thornton 2, Kesley: Gosses: Irving, At 1,200.						Rochdale	23	16	0	8	587
Huddersfield 42	42	Bramley 28	28			Royds York	24	12	1	11	699
Huddersfield: Tries: Thomas 2, Austin, Hanger, Phil Hellewell, Pearce, Reynolds, Leitch, Mather, Stammers, Gosses: Tries: Thornton 2, Ashton, W Freeman, Marson, Gosses: Crosser 3, At 2,166.						Hull K R	24	12	1	11	699
Hull K R	20	Dewsbury 4	4			Swinton	23	16	0	8	472
Hull K R: Tries: Alsine, M Petcher, P Fletcher, Gosses: M Petcher 4, Dewsbury: Tries: Holliday, At 1,804.						Carlisle	23	16	0	8	472
Hunslet 26	26	Bury 24	24			Barnley	23	16	0	8	472
Hunslet: Tries: White 2, Close, Grant, Whitehead: Gosses: Close 3, Barnley: Gosses: White 2, Close, Grant, Gosses: Ruane 3, Phil Ashton, At 383.						Harrogate	23	16	0	8	472
Rochdale 78	78	Hightfield 6	6			Carlisle	23	16	0	8	472
Rochdale: Tries: Anderson 2, Digby 2, Gibson 2, Pechinick 2, Sharp 2, England, Leitch 2, Mather 2, Gosses: Fanning 3, Hightfield: Tries: Bennett, Gosses: Rippon, At 726.						Harrogate	23	16	0	8	472
Ryedale York 25	25	London Broncos 12	12			Harrogate	23	16	0	8	472
Ryedale York: Tries: Davis, Deakin, Leitch 2, Mather 2, Gosses: Fanning 3, Droppog: Gosses: Dobson 2, Precious, London Broncos: Tries: Johnson 2, At 1,737.						Harrogate	23	16	0	8	472
Whitehaven 6	6	Swinton 10	10			Harrogate	23	16	0	8	472
Whitehaven: Gosses: L, Anderson 2, Maguire, Swinton: Tries: Ashcroft, Hudspeth, Gosses: Hudspeth, At 1,006.						Harrogate	23	16	0	8	472

MIDC/Barfies/Bucks and Oats: Bradnall
3 Aylebury 1

NORTHWICH UNITED EAST LEAGUE: Premier Division: A Linton 2; Cambridge University 1. Premier division B: Bury St Edmunds 1; Norwich City 1; Romford 3; Southgate 1; Thelwell 0; Wymondley 2.

WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE
PREMIER DIVISION: Bakersen Lacrosse 2; Chesham 0; Clifton 3; First Personnel Sutton Colliery 1; Highdown 5 (awash); Col 7; Epsom 1.

P W D L A F A Pts

Slough 12 12 1 0 40 6 37
Highgate 13 12 4 2 26 10 37
Sutton 13 12 4 2 26 10 37
Sutton C 13 12 4 2 31 18 16
Clifton 13 12 4 2 31 18 16
Luton 13 12 4 2 31 18 16
Bracknell 13 12 4 2 31 18 16
Chesham 13 12 4 2 31 18 16

FIRST DIVISION: Blakeney 2; Canterbury 0; Bradford Southwark 0; Tring 5; Epsom 1; Doncaster 3; Wimbledon 0.

LAURESTON (Newcastle): Hunt 1, Walkers Point (W G Turner 4-5), 2; Sene De Cote 3; Chesley 9; 10; 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 16; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26; 27; 28; 29; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34; 35; 36; 37; 38; 39; 40; 41; 42; 43; 44; 45; 46; 47; 48; 49; 50; 51; 52; 53; 54; 55; 56; 57; 58; 59; 60; 61; 62; 63; 64; 65; 66; 67; 68; 69; 70; 71; 72; 73; 74; 75; 76; 77; 78; 79; 80; 81; 82; 83; 84; 85; 86; 87; 88; 89; 90; 91; 92; 93; 94; 95; 96; 97; 98; 99; 100; 101; 102; 103; 104; 105; 106; 107; 108; 109; 110; 111; 112; 113; 114; 115; 116; 117; 118; 119; 120; 121; 122; 123; 124; 125; 126; 127; 128; 129; 130; 131; 132; 133; 134; 135; 136; 137; 138; 139; 140; 141; 142; 143; 144; 145; 146; 147; 148; 149; 150; 151; 152; 153; 154; 155; 156; 157; 158; 159; 160; 161; 162; 163; 164; 165; 166; 167; 168; 169; 170; 171; 172; 173; 174; 175; 176; 177; 178; 179; 180; 181; 182; 183; 184; 185; 186; 187; 188; 189; 190; 191; 192; 193; 194; 195; 196; 197; 198; 199; 200; 201; 202; 203; 204; 205; 206; 207; 208; 209; 210; 211; 212; 213; 214; 215; 216; 217; 218; 219; 220; 221; 222; 223; 224; 225; 226; 227; 228; 229; 230; 231; 232; 233; 234; 235; 236; 237; 238; 239; 240; 241; 242; 243; 244; 245; 246; 247; 248; 249; 250; 251; 252; 253; 254; 255; 256; 257; 258; 259; 260; 261; 262; 263; 264; 265; 266; 267; 268; 269; 270; 271; 272; 273; 274; 275; 276; 277; 278; 279; 280; 281; 282; 283; 284; 285; 286; 287; 288; 289; 290; 291; 292; 293; 294; 295; 296; 297; 298; 299; 300; 301; 302; 303; 304; 305; 306; 307; 308; 309; 310; 311; 312; 313; 314; 315; 316; 317; 318; 319; 320; 321; 322; 323; 324; 325; 326; 327; 328; 329; 330; 331; 332; 333; 334; 335; 336; 337; 338; 339; 340; 341; 342; 343; 344; 345; 346; 347; 348; 349; 350; 351; 352; 353; 354; 355; 356; 357; 358; 359; 360; 361; 362; 363; 364; 365; 366; 367; 368; 369; 370; 371; 372; 373; 374; 375; 376; 377; 378; 379; 380; 381; 382; 383; 384; 385; 386; 387; 388; 389; 390; 391; 392; 393; 394; 395; 396; 397; 398; 399; 400; 401; 402; 403; 404; 405; 406; 407; 408; 409; 410; 411; 412; 413; 414; 415; 416; 417; 418; 419; 420; 421; 422; 423; 424; 425; 426; 427; 428; 429; 430; 431; 432; 433; 434; 435; 436; 437; 438; 439; 440; 441; 442; 443; 444; 445; 446; 447; 448; 449; 450; 451; 452; 453; 454; 455; 456; 457; 458; 459; 460; 461; 462; 463; 464; 465; 466; 467; 468; 469; 470; 471; 472; 473; 474; 475; 476; 477; 478; 479; 480; 481; 482; 483; 484; 485; 486; 487; 488; 489; 490; 491; 492; 493; 494; 495; 496; 497; 498; 499; 500; 501; 502; 503; 504; 505; 506; 507; 508; 509; 510; 511; 512; 513; 514; 515; 516; 517; 518; 519; 520; 521; 522; 523; 524; 525; 526; 527; 528; 529; 530; 531; 532; 533; 534; 535; 536; 537; 538; 539; 540; 541; 542; 543; 544; 545; 546; 547; 548; 549; 550; 551; 552; 553; 554; 555; 556; 557; 558; 559; 560; 561; 562; 563; 564; 565; 566; 567; 568; 569; 570; 571; 572; 573; 574; 575; 576; 577; 578; 579; 580; 581; 582; 583; 584; 585; 586; 587; 588; 589; 590; 591; 592; 593; 594; 595; 596; 597; 598; 599; 600; 601; 602; 603; 604; 605; 606; 607; 608; 609; 610; 611; 612; 613; 614; 615; 616; 617; 618; 619; 620; 621; 622; 623; 624; 625; 626; 627; 628; 629; 630; 631; 632; 633; 634; 635; 636; 637; 638; 639; 640; 641; 642; 643; 644; 645; 646; 647; 648; 649; 650; 651; 652; 653; 654; 655; 656; 657; 658; 659; 660; 661; 662; 663; 664; 665; 666; 667; 668; 669; 670; 671; 672; 673; 674; 675; 676; 677; 678; 679; 680; 681; 682; 683; 684; 685; 686; 687; 688; 689; 690; 691; 692; 693; 694; 695; 696; 697; 698; 699; 700; 701; 702; 703; 704; 705; 706; 707; 708; 709; 710; 711; 712; 713; 714; 715; 716; 717; 718; 719; 720; 721; 722; 723; 724; 725; 726; 727; 728; 729; 730; 731; 732; 733; 734; 735; 736; 737; 738; 739; 740; 741; 742; 743; 744; 745; 746; 747; 748; 749; 750;

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Just Ben 10 nan. Confined: 1, Panda Sh

Graham Duffill discovers that ski jumping is child's play and that it's downhill all the way for adults

Over the hill on the nursery slopes

Hello, my name is Eric. I'm ten," said the boy in the red jumpsuit looking me up and down. "Why aren't you jumping on the big hill?"

Well, Eric, because the big hill is about 30 storeys high, and when you come off it at 60mph there are still 18 storeys to go before body meets land again and it won't necessarily be first.

At least on the 30m hill, at the top of which we stood, feet do come down first. That's why they let the five-year-olds jump off it.

For my lesson in ski jumping humility I was on Howelsen Hill in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. This is not just an American ski resort with ski-jumping. Ever since Steamboat was visited by a Norwegian immigrant called Carl Howelsen in 1913 it has been ski-jump USA.

As "Captain Carl, the Flying Norseman", Howelsen introduced America to ski jumping. He was paid \$200 a week by the Barnum and Bailey circus to "ski sail" down a vaseline-greased wooden slide set at a 45-degree angle and to jump across a 60ft gap.

As I joined the children's class at Howelsen Hill my inspiration came from Gary Crawford, who jumped in two Olympics for America, and once broke his neck but did not realise for two weeks. I relied on him to manhandle me into position at the top of the jumps because my 9ft skis were as uncontrollable as two bars of soap. The skis have no metal edges, they are attached only at the toes and the boots are as soft as tennis shoes. After hard downhill boots and release bindings you feel as though you are wearing bathroom slippers attached by a rubber band. My first slide forward ended 300yds later in the car park.

Then you have to learn to lean forwards in a low tuck and stick out your hands behind you. If you lean too far forwards you pivot on your toes and plant your nose in the snow. If you sit back on your heels the skis do not track very well and instead of going down the in-run in a straight line you veer off at an angle and fall off the edge before you get to the jump.



I started ski jumping by running over a three-foot ramp on the slope and nearly missed it most times. The biggest fear was not the leap itself, but that I would not make it to the take-off.

The in-run is a surprisingly long, steep and frightening descent, much steeper than it looks on television. A skier on the 90m hill will accelerate to 60mph within two seconds. As you glide down, however, time seems to slow and allows fear, doubts and all manner of strange thoughts to crowd in your mind.

It is a popular misconception that ski jumps point upwards at the end, throwing the skier into the air. They point down at an angle of 10 or 11 degrees. If you ski straight off the end you will probably just avoid crashing into the flat part beneath the jump and will, with luck, get as far as the top of the knoll.

The difference between flopping off the end like a dead duck and making a ski jump is in the "spring", something that happens so fast that it has to be purely intuitive.

For beginners there is an unexpected psychological problem. The hill on which you are going to land is so steep that you cannot see it from above. The knoll disappears a few yards in front of the take-off and all you can see is the flat run out about 250 feet below. Seen from the jumper's perspective, this is a leap into pure blue sky.

The first task before jumping is to ski the run-outs. Even on the 50m

run-out you feel the speed and have to prepare for the compression as you come out of the slope onto the flat. The 90m out-run looks elevator-shaft steep; standing straight up on normal downhill skis you will reach 60mph.

If the jumper holds back at all, the pressure of the air under those big skis will flip him on his back. If he jumps tensely or too aggressively off one leg he will find he is turning on to one side.

When you see ordinary boys twisting and turning in the air, fighting the air pressure for balance, you realise the forces that the perfect jumper is controlling.

The most wonderful feeling was of landing. You come down so softly that the exact moment of impact is imperceptible. Suddenly you realise you are down. It is over, you are speeding down the out-run and the exhilaration is enormous. You want to get straight back on the lift and do it again.

Gary says that while it is possible to teach an adult to ski jump you can never make an adult a ski jumper. This Saturday, the older children, (i.e., over-tens) were jumping in a competition on the 70m hill against the United States national team. In Steamboat, a respectable age to make the 90m, the one which Olympic judges ruled was too dangerous for Eddie the Eagle to ski, is 11 or 12. It is child's play really.

LIFT OFF

□ Britain has no ski jumping hill. The International Ski Federation has lists of ski jumps (010 41 33 44 61 61).

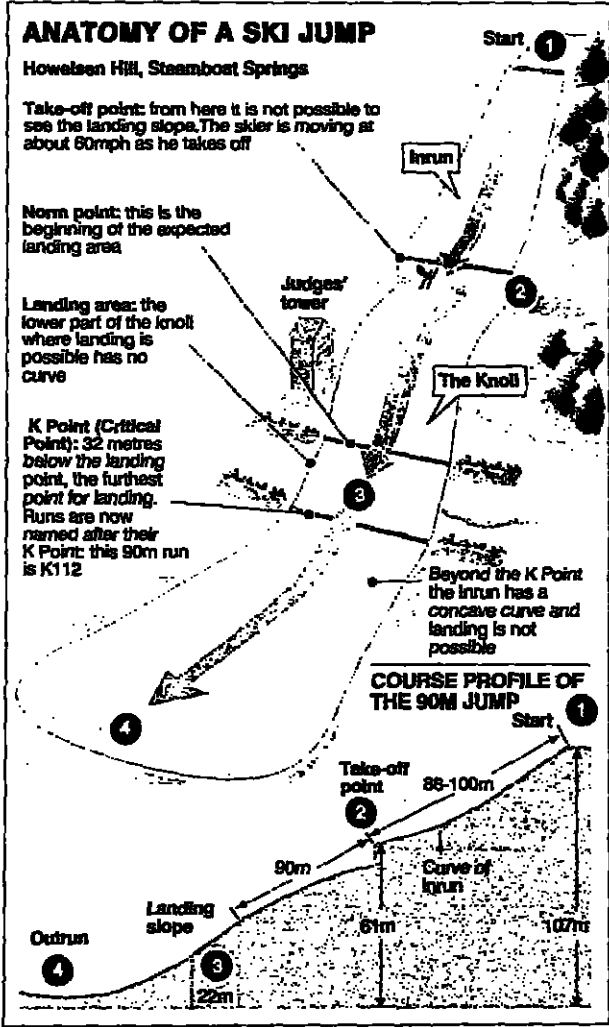
□ Steamboat Springs is one of the few resorts to have a full range of hills for beginners.

□ Steamboat Ski Resort Corporation (0101 303 879 6111) and Howelsen Hill (0101 303 879 0695).

□ The main operators: Crystal (0181 399 5144); Ski the American Dream (0181 552 1201); Inghams (0181 785 7777); Bladon Lines (0181 785 3131); Ski Enterprises (0293 560777).



TONY GARRETT



CYNTHIA HUNTER/PALLAS

Graham Duffill (top left) gets it wrong unlike a talented ten-year-old (above)

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J Russell, Cleveland;
R Savin, Dorset;
E Stimpdon, Gloucestershire;
R Quinley, Wolverhampton;
T Boyle, Knaresborough.

One under par

I Lamb, Leeds; J Lee, Cleethorpes;
P Stewart, London;
P Hickmott, Kentsford.

PRIZES

The first weekly prize of a golfing holiday in Hawaii was won by Alan Anderson of Grimsby.

The Sunday Times prize of a set of Wilson clubs was won by Richard Taylor of Doncaster.

The Times prize was won by Paul Mearns of Sale, Cheshire.

TODAY'S hole in our Golf Masters Challenge features the 9th at Turnberry, played by John Daly in the 1994 Open. This is a 452yd par four and Daly completed it in three shots. Taking into account a moderate to fresh southwesterly wind, he need off with a driver. He used a sand wedge for the second shot to the green and a putter to hole.

SKY SPORTS adds the Ryder Cup in September to its golf coverage.

strokesaver
THE WEEKEND GOLF COACH GUIDE

GUIDE TO DISTANCE PER CLUB:
Driver - 270-340yds
Sand wedge - 115-150yds

Today we publish the fourth hole in the Golf Masters Challenge accompanied by details of how many shots a leading professional golfer, John Daly, took to play the hole, the clubs he used and the prevailing weather conditions. The third hole appeared in *The Sunday Times* yesterday.

To play today's hole study the Strokesaver map taking into account the yardage guides which give both distances from the tee and yardages to the green. They also show obstacles that might prevent the golfer from hitting the ball in a straight line, such as water and trees.

Using your skill and judgment estimate how far each shot travelled, in yards. Then pick up the 'phone, dial the appropriate Hotline, follow the instructions and key in your answers you will need a touchtone telephone and calls will last for about four minutes; calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate and 49p per minute at other times.

Try to match the yardage of each shot taken by the featured golf professional and you could win any of three different prizes:

The £25,000 accumulator prize can only be won by readers who play all 18 holes during the nine weeks of *The Times/The Sunday Times* Golf Masters Challenge. If you have already played the first three holes ring 0891 66 55 04 and quote your Pin number to play the fourth hole. This number automatically enters accumulator players for the daily prize and the second stage of the second weekly prize. A weekly leader board will chart the progress of the top 30 entrants.

The weekly prize. This is for all readers who play today's hole and the hole published in *The Sunday Times* yesterday. The person who has the best score over the two holes will win a luxury golf holiday worth up to £7,000. To play for the weekly prize ring 0891 66 55 04. Accumulator players do not need to call this number.

The daily prize. The reader with the lowest score on a single hole will win a full set of Wilson golf clubs including a golf bag and Ultra balls. To play for the daily prize ring 0891 66 55 05.

The success of your play is calculated by a simple scoring system based on how close your estimates were to the actual yardages.

Full terms and conditions were published last week. If you wish to obtain a copy, write to: Promotions Department, Times Newspapers Ltd, 1 Farringdon Street, London E1 6ED.

Golf Masters Challenge
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I do not want to do A levels

GNVQs, or vocational courses, are proving an increasingly popular alternative, reports David Tytler

Parents generally have a clear idea of what their children need if they are to be successful: good grades at GCSE, three or four A levels and then university. Talk of vocational courses is too often considered second best.

But things are changing and vocational courses — which rejoice in the mind-numbing title of General National Vocational Courses (GNVQs) — appeal to teenagers who want more than another two years in the classroom with uncertain results. As a result, more and more schools are introducing them.

One of the first independent schools to offer GNVQs is Kingham Hill, a 200-pupil non-selective coeducational boarding school near Chipping Norton, in Oxfordshire. Michael Payne, the head, says: "One of the difficulties with British education has always been the divide between the academic and the vocational. GNVQs should combine the best of both."

In the past, education has been like a train: you get on aged five and stay on as long as you can, and if you are good enough you end up as a professor in your university in your subject. Getting off the train too soon has always been seen as second best."

Like many heads, Mr Payne is concerned that for too many teenagers the two-year A-level course is a waste of time, giving them poor results or failure, so that they end up little better qualified than they were at 16. He says: "For the academically able, the A level is fine, but for others it can be an unsatisfactory experience as they fight a battle for which they are not prepared. They end up trying only to satisfy the examiner rather than enjoying the subject."

"For the average pupil, vocational courses are very exciting. They will be doing something new. They develop an interest and start achieving something. They enjoy the freedom and the chance to experience the world of work."

Nearly 200,000 students are on GNVQ courses: 163,000 of them started last September; 35,000 are

on the two-year advanced-level course. There are 2,249 centres teaching the course, 1,522 of them schools. By next autumn almost 250,000 teenagers between 16 and 18 will have chosen GNVQ.

Mr Payne says: "Some of the recruits are boys and girls who would have left to take vocational courses elsewhere, and a considerable proportion are choosing them instead of A levels."

Typical is 15-year-old Shaun Cousins, who is studying manufacturing at advanced level. He says: "I was not too keen on GNVQ at first, but when I got to know more about it I liked the idea of going out into a working environment. My parents thought it was more practical than A levels."

Kingham Hill, where fees are £8,763 a year, has always had a small sixth form of 15 to 20 pupils who are either retaking their GCSEs or studying A levels. Mr Payne hopes that the new vocational sixth form will attract more students both from the school and outside.

The school has a strong design and technology department, and the governors looked at the possibility of offering a GNVQ based around it. It was decided that vocational courses should be offered in a number of subjects where A levels had been reduced. The school will now offer maths, the three sciences, economics and modern foreign languages in order to provide a rich mix in the sixth form.

The three courses being offered at advanced and intermediate level are manufacturing, business and tourism. Next year the school may add health and social care, and hospitality and catering. The range of more than 500 courses also includes art and design, the built environment, science, engineering and technology, distribution, information technology, media and communication, land-based occupations and management.

The advanced GNVQ is equivalent to studying two A-level subjects, and Kingham will require its



Richard Ryland, who hopes to start a GNVQ course this year at Kingham Hill, works on a lathe

students to pass at least four or five GCSE passes at Grade C. The one-year intermediate course is for students who have not reached this grade at GCSE, and is equivalent to four or five GCSEs at Grade C or above. It would allow pupils to move on to the advanced course.

All students will be able to retake GCSEs if required and the advanced students will also be able to take an appropriate A level. Mr Payne says: "They will be able to take an A level that complements their GNVQ so that they will leave here well equipped for university or their chosen career."

Although popular with students,

the courses have faced criticism. A report from Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, says that the rate of improvement in the delivery of the courses has been too slow.

The standards of work in advanced level were usually on a par with two passes at A level, and a third of the work was good. Intermediate-level work was much more variable, with more than a third having more weaknesses than strengths, particularly in the new course of leisure and tourism.

The report says that schools need to plan carefully, give pupils sufficient time and develop teaching

teams to include English, maths and information technology.

At Kingham Hill, the course co-ordinator, Robert Herringshaw, has been on a number of courses and will embark on another next term. Two new members of staff have been appointed, both with experience in industry and teaching. Both Mr Herringshaw and the head have visited schools and colleges which are teaching the courses successfully.

Mr Payne says: "The courses have to be academically rigorous. If they are not they will lose their value and the support of parents and universities."

Why we need girls' schools

Single-sex classes produce women who can make their way in the world

How ironic, in the year of the *Panorama* programme "The Future is Female" and of excellent examination results at GCSE and Advanced Level that girls' schools should risk further erosion. The benefits of girls-only schools are self-evident. Academic results are better and confidence is greater. But the most telling argument is that of opportunity. In a single-sex school, the needs and aspirations of girls are the main focus. All the A-level physicists, all those using the computers, all those in the sports teams are girls; and the leader in each case is a girl. This culture helps to develop the confidence that mathematics and young women need before they enter a career world dominated by men. The time for co-education is at university level, when girls are ready to enter a new world on equal terms.

Dr Gerard McCrum who wrote a paper on arts entrants to universities, laments the decline in performance of girls from state schools; a decline that coincides with the loss of single-sex grammar schools and the movement of girls into mixed comprehensives. A temporal relationship does not, of course, imply a causal one. But Dr McCrum cites the detailed evidence in *How schools short-change girls*, the 1992 report of the American Association of University Women, which makes it clear that in mixed classes girls do not receive the same quality of education as boys.

Falling at Fairness, a report published last year, encapsulates 20 years of research in mixed classes in America. It makes the point with disturbing force. Unwitting teachers respond to the demands of more vocal boys, ignoring the less assertive girls, with serious consequences. "Each time the teacher passes over a girl to elicit the ideas and opinions of boys," it says, "that girl is conditioned to be silent and to defer. As teachers use

their expertise to question, praise, probe, clarify, and correct boys, they help these male students sharpen ideas, refine their thinking, and [not] achieve more. When female students are offered the leftovers of teacher time and attention, morsels of amorphous feedback, they achieve less."

There are attitude differences, deeply ingrained, between girls and boys, which contribute to the picture. Girls attribute success to effort and failure to lack of ability — boys attribute success to ability, failure to lack of effort.

In girls' schools, girls are traditionally encouraged to think of themselves as good at mathematics and science. In my own school, more than half the sixth form are taking a maths A level with a wide variety of other subjects: a similar number regularly take at least one science at A level. The pattern is repeated in girls' schools throughout the country.

The independent girls' sector contributes significantly to the rich diversity of educational provision in this country. In an increasingly pressurised financial climate, we recognise that some small schools have proved no longer viable. But there will always be a need for small schools. Many girls flourish in their invigorating atmosphere — girls who would be silent in a larger establishment where the struggle to assert their individuality would be harder. It would be sad indeed if more were lost in the world of merger that has begun to impinge on education.

Yet we should not be unduly pessimistic. There may be more mergers, but the hundreds of schools that remain have already served generations of young women and these young women are now well established on the career ladder, with higher and more realistic aspirations than ever before. Their daughters deserve the same opportunity.

●The author is President of the Girls' Schools Association.

VIEWPOINT

Penelope Penney

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Within its scheme of research grants recently advertised, the Japan Foundation Endowment Committee again plans to offer a Research Studentship in the academic area of Japanese Studies. The Studentship will be tenable in a UK degree-awarding institution, in the first instance for one year from October 1995, but in the expectation that it will be renewable on the basis of satisfactory progress up to a total of three years. The Studentship will be limited to the payment of fees and maintenance at the basic Research Council rate, with modest allowances for the cost of a research visit to Japan in appropriate cases.

Applications may not be made directly by students or prospective students, but must be submitted by Research Supervisors who are members of staff in relevant UK institutions: they must be made in respect of named individuals to whom research places have been offered. It is emphasised that the Committee can only support research of direct relevance to the academic subject of Japanese Studies.

Further particulars and application form may be obtained from the Secretary, Japan Foundation Endowment Committee, c/o the University of Sheffield, Western Bank, Sheffield S10 2TN, by whom completed applications must be received by Friday 28 April 1995 at the latest.

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

St. Peter's College Oxford

Bursar

Applications are invited for the post of Bursar with effect from October 1995 or as soon as possible thereafter. The Bursar is the principal financial officer of the College with responsibilities for its non-academic management, which in addition to financial supervision includes supervision of domestic management, maintenance of the College's fabric and property, and the marketing and organisation of conferences.

Applicants should have established administrative and financial experience at a senior level, with good management and communication skills, and be computer literate. The appointment will be for one year in the first instance and thereafter with eligibility for re-appointment every seven years until retirement. The Bursar will be elected an Official Fellow of the College and a member of the Governing Body. The salary is on an age-related scale with a maximum at age 45 of £35,248 including taxable allowances.

Further particulars may be obtained from the College Secretary, St Peter's College, Oxford, OX1 2DA, to whom applications, which should be accompanied by a c.v. and the names of three referees, should be submitted not later than 21st April 1995.

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EDUCATION

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POSTS



TEACHING IN SINGAPORE

The Ministry of Education (Singapore) invites applications from qualified UK teachers and Educational Psychologists to take up challenging and rewarding positions in Singapore on a contract basis.



Teaching Posts (Group I)

(English, Theatre Studies and Drama, History)

1. The Ministry runs a programme at 5 Junior Colleges (equivalent to Sixth Form Colleges) for selected top students who have opted to study humanities subjects under an Award Scheme.

2. Generally, the teacher is tasked to prepare this group of students for the Singapore-Cambridge 'A' and 'S' level papers and to give them exposure to extra materials. There are currently vacancies in the teaching of English (including General Paper), Theatre Studies and Drama and History.

3. Applicants must possess:-

- a) a good Honours degree in either English or English with a diploma in Theatre Studies and Drama, or History. Preference will be given to those candidates with a Master's degree in the relevant subject;
- b) suitable teaching qualifications; and
- c) at least 5 years of relevant teaching experience in reputable schools or colleges.

Teaching Posts (Group II)

4. The Ministry requires good grammar school English Language/Literature teachers to upgrade the standard of spoken and written English at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

5. Applicants must possess:-

- a) an Honours degree in English or in the Humanities with English as one of the major subjects;
- b) suitable teaching qualifications; and

c) at least 5 years of relevant teaching experience.

The syllabi and examinations that the students are preparing for are:-

Singapore Cambridge General Paper (Subject 8003)
GCE 'A' Level: English (Subject 9002)

Singapore Cambridge English Language (Subject 1120)
GCE 'O' Level: English Literature (Subject 2010)

Educational Psychologists

6. The Ministry wishes to recruit Educational Psychologists for its development of the School Psychological Service in Singapore.

7. Applicants must possess:-

- a) an Honours degree in Psychology;
- b) a post-graduate professional qualification in Educational Psychology;
- c) suitable teaching qualifications;
- d) at least 2 years of teaching experience; and
- e) at least 2 years of experience as an Educational Psychologist.

Remuneration

8. The remuneration package comprises:-

- Salaries which take into account the candidate's last drawn salary;
- An annual ex-gratia payment of 25% of annual basic salary for each year of contract service;
- An end-of-contract gratuity amounting to 25% of the last

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- Renewable contracts of three-year duration;
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- Education allowance for two dependent children up to 18 years of age ranging from S\$6,000 to S\$9,600 per annum;
- Subsidised outpatient medical benefits. Monthly employer's contribution based on 1% of basic salary to pay for hospitalisation medical insurance and costs;
- Free air passage to Singapore on first appointment and return air passage on completion of contract;
- Home leave upon renewal of each contract;
- Interest-free settling-in loan of S\$6,000;
- A once-only commuted baggage allowance of S\$280;
- A once-only commuted board and lodging allowance for initial accommodation expenses on arrival according to marital status ranging from S\$600 to S\$1,200;

9. Interviews are scheduled to be held in London at the end of May 1995 and successful applicants are expected to take up their appointment in August 1995 or earlier.

10. Application forms can be obtained or requested from:-

Teacher Recruitment Unit
Singapore High Commission
16 Kinnerton Street
London SW1X 8ES
United Kingdom
Tel: 0171-235 4562

11. Applications close 14 April 1995.

EDUCATION



INITIAL TEACHER TRAINING FUNDING STUDY

INVITATION TO TENDER

The Teacher Training Agency (TTA) invites tenders from suitably qualified organisations to carry out a study into approaches to allocating student numbers and funding for Initial Teacher Training (ITT).

The successful bidder will be required to consult with providers and other bodies to:

- conduct a review of the current funding and allocations methodology
- consider alternative mechanisms and their potential relevance to ITT
- generate options for new arrangements which help secure a diversity of high quality and cost-effective ITT

• suggest arrangements for transition and/or trials. An information meeting for organisations interested in tendering will be held on 4 April 1995. The closing date for the submission of completed tenders is 12 noon on 24 April 1995. Shortlisted bidders will be invited to make a presentation to the selection panel on 1 May 1995. The contract will run to the end of August 1995.

Further information, specification and tender documents are available from: Gillian Langford, Allocations Team, TTA, Portland House, Stag Place, London SW1E 5TT Tel: 0171 925 3724 Fax: 0171 925 3791.

COURSES

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Applications are invited for the post of Reader/Senior Lecturer/Lectureship/Assistant Lecturer in Educational Psychology or Guidance & Counselling (EP-94/95-97) in the Department of Education, tenable from 1 September 1995. Appointment will normally be made on a three year fixed-term contract, but consideration may also be given to appointment on supernumerary terms.

Applicants should possess a higher degree in a relevant area and preferably have previous teaching and professional experience in the Hong Kong context. Demonstrated ability in research will be required.

Applicants should indicate clearly which level they wish to be considered for.

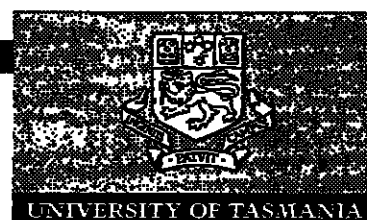
Annual salaries (non-supernumerary but attracting 15% (taxable) terminal gratuity) are on the following scales, with starting salary depending on qualifications and experience: Reader HK\$669,360 - HK\$889,260 (9 points: approx. \$52,705 - \$70,020); Senior Lecturer HK\$641,850 - HK\$861,900 (9 points: approx. \$50,520 - \$67,865); Lecturer HK\$412,980 - HK\$639,880 (11 points: approx. \$32,620 - \$54,320); Assistant Lecturer HK\$300,780 - HK\$524,960 (4 points: approx. \$23,685 - \$30,310). (Sterling equivalents as at 6 March 1995).

At current rates salaries tax will not exceed 15% of gross income. Children's education allowance, leave, and medical benefits are provided; housing or tenancy allowances are also provided in most cases at a charge of a percentage of salary, currently 7.5%.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (49769), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF (tel. 0171 387 8672 ext. 206; fax 0171 813 3055; email: appts.acu@ucl.ac.uk) or from the Appointments Unit, Registry, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (fax (852) 2559 2058; E-mail: APPTUNIT@HKUVM1.HKU.HK). Particulars are also available on the University's listserv accessed by E-mail as "listserv@hkuvm1.hku.hk" (specify "get apptment filelist" for list of vacant posts).

Closes 9 June 1995.

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



TASMANIA • AUSTRALIA

Vice-Chancellor

The University is considering the appointment of a successor to Professor Alan Gilbert who will be leaving the University at the end of 1995 to take up appointment as Vice-Chancellor of the University of Melbourne.

The Vice-Chancellor and Principal is the chief academic and executive officer of the University, responsible to Council. The Vice-Chancellor is also charged especially with the duty of promoting the interests and furthering the development of the University.

Persons interested in the position or who wish to nominate candidates for consideration are invited to write, in confidence, to the Chancellor, the Honourable Sir Guy Green AC KBE, c/o the Deputy Principal and Registrar, University of Tasmania, GPO Box 252C, Hobart, Tasmania, Australia 7001, telephone 61 02 20 2005 facsimile 61 02 202923, email Registrar@admin.utas.edu.au

Formal applications will close on 5 May 1995. The University reserves the right to fill the position by invitation.

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COURSES



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For further information, please contact Rita Collett, Postgraduate Admissions Office, Canterbury Christ Church College, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1QU. Telephone 0227 782491.

School books are no longer a dusty corner of publishing. For the lucky few, there are fortunes to be made from classroom blockbusters

The textbook way to riches

Martin Amis is not the only writer whose six-figure advance has raised eyebrows in the publishing world in recent weeks. His earnings power has been put in the shade by a Harvard professor commissioned to write a basic economics textbook.

Gregory Mankiw was offered \$1.4 million (£930,000) by the Texas publishing firm of Harcourt Brace, which is looking for a successor to Paul Samuelson's *Economics*, a bestselling staple for generations of students. The windfall reflects frenzied competition in an increasingly lucrative field.

Professor Mankiw's advance is said to be three times as big as any in the American textbook market, dwarfing the sums offered to British authors. Its sheer size has highlighted changes in educational publishing.

Although the number of full-time educational writers can be counted in hundreds in Britain, expansion in universities and the narrowing of the schools market since the advent of the national curriculum have raised the financial stakes.

The market for school textbooks is substantial. The turnover was almost £174 million last year, with about 2,000 new titles and 700 new editions. Prices have risen sharply. Last year, the independent National Commission on Education reported that school books cost almost three and a half times as much in 1990 as they did a decade earlier. Taking this into account, expenditure per pupil fell by 17 per cent.

Customers' expectations are higher than ever, and books are more expensively produced as a result. Publishers have had to increase investment in pursuit of the elusive blockbuster, while fame, if not fortune, has become possible for a few authors.

David Crystal, whose *Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language*, is published later this year, is a case in point. The former Reading University Professor of Linguistics, who has been writing textbooks for more than a decade, will be propelled into the spotlight when the encyclopedia appears.

Mr Crystal has made a living from the sales of his books in schools and universities, and the rewards have been relatively modest. "I must have been one of the better-selling authors of my type, but I have never been offered

John O'Leary and Liz Gill on an increasingly lucrative field

anything remotely near £100,000, never mind \$1 million."

Equally successful is Rod Hunt, a former primary school head teacher and author of Britain's most popular reading scheme. With more than 200 books to his name in the Oxford Reading Tree, he admits to living "very comfortably" from his royalties.

Like many authors, Mr Hunt's inspiration lay in dissatisfaction with books of the time. "My son was doing rather badly with this *Peter and Jane* book until he came to a page where there was a dramatic incident about a barn

'We find people by reputation, by word of mouth, or from other editors'

catching fire. At long last, he had found something exciting. It occurred to me that you could produce bite-sized stories children would want to learn."

The series, which combines lively stories with sparky characters and simple syntax, is now used by half the primary schools in England. But Mr Hunt is the exception, rather than the rule.

Most authors are still in the classroom. Those who dream of riches or retirement are likely to be disappointed. A big hit might make its creator £40,000 or £50,000, but most bring in only an extra thousand or two a year.

More likely, the response will be a rejection slip. Dominica de Rosa, commissioning editor in English at HarperCollins, receives dozens of unsolicited manuscripts. "I've never published one, though we may see a spark in someone which we can encourage, or an idea which we can develop. We find people by reput-

ation, or word of mouth, even by a fellow editor hearing someone at their child's speech day."

Many of the big sellers, such as the Oxford University Press *GCSE Module Mathematics*, which sold 35,000 copies in 1993, are the work of more than one author. The growing trend in providing a complete course makes for a workload and demands breadth of expertise that is usually too much for an individual.

Dr Peter Jones, a Newcastle University classicist, led one such team producing *Reading Greek* for Cambridge University Press, which is thought to be the world's top seller in its subject. But its limited market restricts sales to 10,000 a year, bringing in £14,000 in royalties for the classics teachers' national association.

The moral for money-minded authors is: choose your subject carefully. Fiona Clarke, the managing director of OUP's educational division, says: "We rarely offer five-figure advances, but an author might make hundreds of thousands of pounds in royalties if a book takes off and has a long shelf-life. Many teachers prefer that sort of arrangement in any case."

English language teaching probably offers the greatest possibilities. Sales of OUP's *Headway* series are well over a million, and big names in the field, such as L.G. Alexander, have sold several times that number.

But there are more modest success stories in virtually every subject. Christopher Martin's *War Poems* anthology for HarperCollins, which includes exercises for schools, for example, has sold 52,000 copies in four years. Ms de Rosa says: "I think he hit on the only subject that doesn't put boys off poetry."

Peter Harland, director of Bookwatch, which monitors the book market, says: "If you are the author of, say, a study of *Middlemarch*, and you find it's on both the curriculum and television, then you're laughing. But examples like that are few and far between. You may do moderately well, but it will usually be as a supplement to your income, rather than turning you into a Jeffrey Archer."

For those who cherish such ambitions, Rod Hunt has some basic advice: "Try to write as a child might think. And sit down and do it. A lot of people talk about it, but never actually try."



David Crystal: he will be propelled into the media spotlight

Could this be the end of the chapter?

For the authors of children's books, the advent of government testing for seven-year-olds in 1991 was the literary equivalent of the National Lottery.

Suddenly, a handful of books were selected for teachers to use to test children's reading. Parents caught on quickly. Thousands embarked on a quest for the chosen texts to help to rehearse their children. Bookshops were besieged.

Initially, publishers were caught off guard. They failed to anticipate either the titles favoured by government advisers or their ensuing popularity. As a result, some were out of print and few were available in sufficient quantity to satisfy demand.

Philippa Milnes-Smith, editorial director of Puffin Books, describes the impact of the first booklist as extraordinary. Some titles put on nearly 30,000 sales almost overnight. Others were plucked from the obscurity of back catalogues to win reprints. She says: "The effect of the booklist is still noticeable as it ensures a steady sale of several thousand extra copies a year, but it is not as extraordinary as in 1991."

For bestselling children's authors such as Allan Ahlberg, who has five books on the current reading list, including *Each Peach Pear Plum*, selection simply bolstered already considerable earnings. But, according to Ms Milnes-Smith, inclusion was critical for lesser-known authors such as Irina Hale, underpinning the success of her paperback *The Lost Toys*.

The arrival of the national curriculum had a similar impact in schools. Trusty old textbooks became out-of-date at a stroke. Teachers sought replacements, aided by government grants totalling more than £45 million.

Publishers with their eye firmly on the new, national market created by the legal requirement that all schools cover the same academic ground, responded with heavy investment. Jeff Andrew, managing director of Longman Education, says: "Educational publishers have benefited from the focus that the national curriculum has given to schools."

But the initial flurry of activity has waned. Schools have become wary as the pressure on their budgets has begun to tell. The chances of many governing bodies allowing teachers to restock with



The Ahlberg family

books tailored to the revised curriculum being introduced in September are slim.

Mr Andrew maintains that in the current financial climate, there is only one likely winner when governors are given the choice of buying new books or saving a teacher's job. "We are concerned that without being given funding earmarked for spending on books, schools will not prioritise the new curriculum and will soldier on with books designed for the old one."

Publishers are quick to point to the problems caused by the unpredictability of a school market, which can switch from the bonanza at the turn of the decade, to the current difficulties. Fiona Clarke, managing director of the educational division of the Oxford University Press, says: "The last few years have been very up and down. A lot of books that used to sell very well year after year are no longer relevant and we have to produce new ones in no time at all."

The switchback is nowhere more apparent than in technology. The subject invented by Kenneth Baker, the author of government education reforms, was flagged as the cornerstone of the curriculum for the 1990s. But after a succession of changes it has been relegated to the second division, leaving publishers to count their losses. History and geography textbook sales were also badly affected by the uncertainty that surrounded the curriculum before Sir Ron Dearing took it by the scruff of the neck 18 months ago and produced the new, revised version.

BEN PRESTON

RESEARCH POSTS

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- Professor in Electronic Library Research in the Division of Learning Development - Milton Keynes or Leicester

- Professor of Graduate and Professional Studies in Education - Bedford
- Professor of Land Economy in the School of the Built Environment - Leicester or Milton Keynes
- Professor of Mental Health Law in the School of Law - Leicester
- Professor in Organisational Behaviour in the Department of Human Resource Management - Leicester
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Further particulars and application forms are available from the Clerk to the Governors, Abingdon School, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1DE.

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MBA / Business Courses	Sunday 21st May	Monday 22nd May
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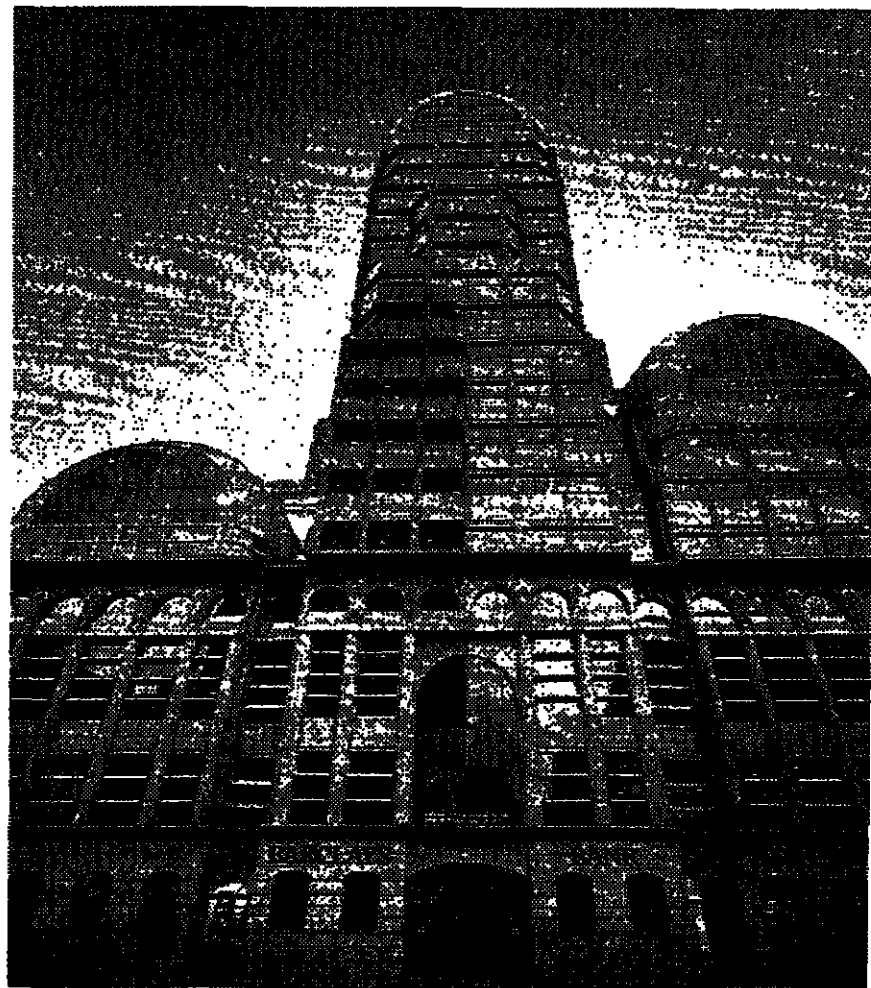
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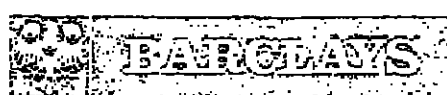
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Campaigners urge L&G shareholders to oust chairman

By JON ASHWORTH

BILL GROSVENOR, cousin of Britain's richest man, the Duke of Westminster, has become embroiled in a campaign to depose Sir Christopher Harding as chairman of L&G. Grosvenor, a specialist in insurance, is urging L&G shareholders to vote for Sir Christopher's dismissal at the annual meeting on May 17.

Also face calls for dismissal under a requisition planned by the Legal & General Shareholders Action Group. L&G is accused of taking business from introducing agents, then cancelling the agency agreement and dealing direct to avoid commission.

1987 to market a Bowls & Tennis Club insurance scheme. L&G later cancelled the agency for Grosvenor Byde and now deals direct with the broker's former clients offering discounted premiums. Kenneth Andrews, a former managing director of Grosvenor Byde, joined the rival broking firm of Sutton Winslow last year, and has allegedly been targeting Grosvenor Byde clients.

City has been built on mutual trust. It's absolutely disgraceful that a company like Legal & General can behave in such a despicable way and get away with it. This is one that's going to go the whole 15 rounds.

The insurance group is facing separate pressure over plans to seek more flexibility in distributing funds to shareholders. Sir John Nott, the former Cabinet minister and past chairman of Lazard Brothers who is a L&G policyholder, believes attempts to set a new basis for transferring shareholders' money out of the long-term life assurance fund might be against the interests of policyholders. At present, any distribution to shareholders is linked to the allocation of bonuses to policyholders.

Orange put on hold by handset shortage

By ERIC REGULY

ORANGE, the smallest but fastest growing of the four mobile phone networks, has a problem that its masters in Hong Kong must find difficult to comprehend. It is desperately short of handsets.

Hutchison Whampoa, the property-to-telecoms conglomerate that owns 65 per cent of Orange, announced last week that the 11-month-old network has signed up 130,000 subscribers, an increase of 30,000 since December. But Orange was not particularly pleased with the figure. Mary Stewart, a spokeswoman, said: "It would have been considerably higher if we had not suffered from this supply problem."

Orange is laying all the blame on Nokia, the Finnish electronics group that supplies its more expensive range of digital handsets. Nokia, according to Orange, has not received enough microchips to install in the phones, which cost £200 in Britain.

Nokia does not take all the blame. Simon Bennett, Nokia's account manager for Orange, said: "Both parties could not foresee what the total demand for Orange would be."

Ms Stewart, however, denies that Orange is even partly responsible for the bottleneck. "Our forecasting was correct and accurate," she said.

Orange's competitors, Vodafone, Cellnet and Mercury One-2-One, are delighted. They are getting the subscribers who are unwilling to wait as much as three weeks for Orange's Nokia phones.

Nokia says the problem, which surfaced before Christmas, will be corrected within weeks, and Orange wants to keep the phones in its range because they are popular.

Insurers to set up catastrophe funds

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CATASTROPHE funds, able to cope with multibillion pound insurance claims caused by natural disasters, are to be given the green light by the Government as fears over global warming increase. The plan is expected to be announced by the Treasury in a few months' time.

News of the scheme comes on the eve of the Berlin climate change summit. Ministers from more than 150 countries are meeting to try to cut emissions of the gases linked to global warming beyond 2000.

Storms, cyclones, floods and other natural disasters are now costing insurance companies 14 times more than they did 30 years ago, figures show. Many companies fear their resources will soon be stretched to breaking point. British insurers believe a major flood in London could cost up to £10 billion.

The rise in natural disasters and the intensity of storms, floods and winds are consistent with scientific predictions on climate change caused by rising emissions of carbon dioxide and other man-made pollution.

Andrew Dlugolecki, chief manager at General Accident UK and a member of the Department of Environment's climate change impact review group, said: "The insurance industry has traditionally not been viewed as dealing with mega disasters and events. So

to deal with these we need to set up a little money each year to cater for the big one. The Government is just about to introduce legislation on the tax front which will allow money to be put away tax-free into catastrophe reserves to help cope."

The industry plans to finance the scheme by putting aside small amounts of insurance premiums from household and other policies into these special funds.

Dr Dlugolecki, who was speaking at a meeting of environmentalists and insurance experts in Berlin yesterday, said the industry was "just finding a voice on issues of global warming". At least two of the world's big reinsurance firms, Munich Re and Swiss Re, had stated that they believe global warming is a reality.

The threat of rising sea levels and fears that natural disasters will increase are leaving some parts of the world virtually uninsurable.

Dr Dlugolecki said that even if global warming was a myth, the risks were too great to ignore and he urged governments to agree to reduce emissions further. He also called for better flood defence and building designs.

"By the time we do find out if we really have a problem with global warming it may be too late. I come from an industry that would say let's insure against it," he said.



As worries over global warming increase, British insurers fear a major flood in London could cost up to £10 billion

Jury-free fraud trials favoured

By JON ASHWORTH

A SIGNIFICANT number of senior British executives think the Serious Fraud Office should be entitled to request a trial without jury in particularly complex fraud cases, according to a survey that suggests white-collar crime remains a serious problem in the UK.

Most of the 106 executives questioned by Ernst & Young in its biennial Fraud Survey supported the idea of jury-free court cases tried by judges with specialist knowledge. Last week, a fraud trial in Wales was abandoned after six months at an estimated cost of £2 million after the

judge ruled that it was too complex for the jury.

Most respondents were in favour of the controversial powers that permit lawyers and accountants working on SFO cases to obtain access to banking information and require suspects to answer questions without a court order.

About 77 per cent thought the police should also have these powers, and 69 per cent thought their use should be widened to include non-SFO fraud cases.

Sir Nicholas Lyell, the Attorney-General, is due to rule on the SFO's future this week. It

is expected that the agency will be allowed to continue in its present form, in spite of public anger over a string of expensive flops.

The end of the recession does not appear to have marked a significant fall in levels of fraud, the survey found. Managers are coming under increasing pressure to perform, and the temptation to manipulate results may never have been greater.

Significantly, in the wake of the Barings affair, one-fifth of companies believed they were more at risk within their treasury and derivatives hedg-

ing operations than they were in 1989. One in four companies admitted that their internal risk-control systems were probably not up to scratch.

About 61 per cent of respondents had suffered at least one fraud between January 1993 and July 1994. Worst hit were banks, building societies, public transport bodies and gas and telecom companies, with an average of more than 300 frauds each. The typical fraud involved £304,000 with another £76,000 in costs per case. In 49 per cent of cases, the suspected offender was an employee acting alone.

Northern Electric under pressure

By GEORGE SIVELL

WYSER-PRATTE, the US fund manager, intends to use Friday's announcement of a review of electricity prices to apply further pressure on Northern Electric by calling a shareholders' meeting.

The aim of the meeting would be to request the board to contemplate a fresh bid from Trafalgar House, and allow shareholders to decide the fate of the company.

Northern said that if enough shareholders wanted a meeting, they would get one. It added that it had not heard from Wyser-Pratte.

Wyser-Pratte is also consulting lawyers about launching an action against Northern's directors for alleged breach of fiduciary duty. The action concerns Northern's special dividend to shareholders of £5 a share made at the height of the £1.2 billion bid battle.

Wyser-Pratte, which specialises in arbitrage, owns 965,000 shares, or 0.8 per cent of Northern. It said it was more angry than ever over the rejection by Northern of the bid from Trafalgar House, which was reduced after two weeks ago by the electricity industry regulator of a further pricing review.

The Americans are irritated by the timetable of events implied by the regulator's announcement on Friday and by Northern's decision to wait until the outcome of the review at the end of June before deciding on whether to consider a new Trafalgar offer. Under City rules, Trafalgar can make a bid before next March only if Northern agrees.

Wyser-Pratte said it was not acting in concert with other shareholders, but added that it was seeking support from them.

It is claimed that about 20 per cent of Northern could be held by similar arbitrage investors seeking to make money by investing in companies facing hostile takeover bids.

What foreigners fear most

Two key issues will dominate the outlook for gilts. First, can inflation remain low, despite sterling's latest fall? Second, are gilts a safe haven? The answer to both questions is yes, although foreign investors may take time to be convinced.

During the past year, world bonds have been affected by three main fears: higher inflation, rising official rates and budgetary problems. Even though the UK's fiscal position has been improving, gilts failed to escape the inflation worries that drove world bond markets down last year.

In recent months there has been a general improvement in global inflation views, as the US economy has slowed and commodity prices have peaked. Britain's inflation performance has been good, in spite of the rise in the headline rate. Yet misplaced inflation fears linger, fed initially by concerns over supply bottlenecks and sterling's fall.

Of course, sterling needs to be monitored. Producer input prices are rising by an annual 11.4% and there has been a small rise in output prices. CBI price expectations are high, although they have fallen for the past two months. After sterling's ERM exit

the market wrongly expected devaluation to trigger inflation. Similarly, inflation worries may be overcome now. A difference is that when sterling fell from the ERM the economy was very weak, with ample excess capacity. Now, the economy is stronger, and there is less spare capacity. Even so, continued competitive pressures evident in the UK throughout the past year suggest that rising intermediate prices will not feed through fully into factory gate or retail prices.

The same disinflationary

pressures keeping world inflation low will restrain price pressures here. Companies face strong competitive pressures to keep costs down. Subdued wage growth and steady productivity gains point to unit costs remaining low, more than offsetting higher import costs. With wages sluggish, job insecurity high and rate rises adding to debt servicing costs, consumers are price sensitive, limiting the ability of retailers to make higher prices stick. If there was a strong sus-

tained rebound in domestic demand, then some of sterling's fall could boost inflation. But we are some way from that. There is almost a dual economy in the UK, with export sectors doing well, whilst domestic demand conditions remain tough. This suggests that base rates do not need to rise, in spite of sterling's weakness.

Higher rates require both evidence of a strong rebound in domestic demand as well as sterling's fall. Latest data suggests domestic demand is weakening. In spite of this, I

would not be surprised if Bank of England caution triggered a further, final 0.5% rate increase this summer.

A central feature of the favourable global inflation picture is the policy environment. The increasing independence of central banks is allowing them to be more pre-emptive in curbing inflation. Yet there is the danger of overkill throughout Europe.

We are in a disinflationary international environment, suggesting the inflation fears of last year were overdone

and the recent bond rally is justified. However, a more genuine fear is that associated with budget deficits. This contributed to the recent flight to quality in global markets and will ensure that it continues.

A number of First World countries including Canada, Sweden, Italy and Belgium already face poor fiscal positions that will not be solved by economic recovery and which require tax increases or spending cuts beyond the scope of their Governments. This makes default or inflation in the medium-term a serious possibility. Fortunately, Britain is not part of this group as its fiscal trend is good.

The problem for gilts is that in spite of the underlying inflation and fiscal trend, politics may prevent foreign investors from regarding gilts as a safe haven. The immediate danger is not so much a change in Government, however, as a shift towards an easier fiscal policy before the election. And if this was, in turn, offset by further Bank of England tightening, the consequences for gilts would be poor. Politics apart, the outlook for gilts is good.

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Creative advertising folk, like the financial exchanges, are usually ahead of trends. Until the 1980s Saatchi years of self-confidence, they were also morally neurotic by tradition. The start of a new debate over moral standards in television advertising might therefore be a pointer for business as a whole for the next decade.

Adrian Holmes, chairman of Lowe Howard Spink and a leading creative talent of his day, launched an opening broadside at an industry conference in the suitably sybaritic surroundings of Monte Carlo. He denounced "the new unpleasantness, the new brutishness, the new yobishness — the new desire to shock the audience into taking notice by whatever means". The advertisements he complained of featured taboo words and bad taste images. More seriously, they linked anti-social attitudes and behaviour, such as contempt for other people, with their products. Nearly all such ads are aimed at boys or young men, who are assumed to be entirely innocent of virtue or modesty.

Mr Holmes claimed: "I believe commercials do not just sell products. They sell attitudes and behaviour with just the same carefully targeted efficiency." According to *Campaign*, the industry bible, Mr Holmes was the only speaker in two days to elicit a spontaneous round of applause during his speech.

This reaction does not mean that buyers and creators of advertising will necessarily heed Mr Holmes's

Adland stumbles upon the conflict of the decade



GRAHAM SEAL-JEANT

advice to shun the yobish tendency. They will surely do that only if, like a notorious lager ad of a few years ago, it fails to sell. A rival argued in *Campaign*: "We do not believe we have any social responsibility — our responsibility is to our clients to help to sell their products." Many a harassed manager would echo that, preferring to remain anonymous.

One way to sell products more effectively is to target a relatively small, specific audience. This audience can be most easily identified, and be made to identify with the product, by excluding the prevailing moral attitudes of everyone else, particularly the traditional family. Programme-makers and magazine publishers do much the same.

Away from young men, for instance, the Prudential has campaigned heavily to sell policies to young married women who might want to divorce their husbands. Its ads are not yobish but sell behaviour that society as a whole might not wish to encourage. The need is there, however, and therefore also the commercial market. The establishment publishers of what is claimed to be the world's first "explicit lesbian sex guide", ex-

plained at last week's launch that "lesbianism is in vogue now".

Ethical dilemmas are as old as business. Anyone trying to trade in the more corrupt parts of the world can testify to that. The more the community can be broken down into smaller groups and target markets, the more people can hide behind the "when in Rome" defence. Mr Holmes's campaign seems, however, to illustrate two separate trends that make management even harder than before. Market pressure is growing for managers to throw their personal morality out of the window and act purely as the amoral "economic man". If they

want to do the right thing, rapid shifts in accepted standards will confuse them.

Respect for the elderly is in decline, but respect has grown for women's right to avoid sexual harassment. Most other moral attitudes are much more liberal than they were a generation ago. But cigarette smoking has become anathema in some parts of America. Companies no longer feel responsible for their employees' jobs. But many leading groups now reckon their traditional gifts to the Conservative Party an improper use of shareholders' funds. Ethical investment funds are in constant flux.

Such shifting mists disguise basic market forces. The imperative to act as the "economic man" comes as much from the financial markets, where it is enshrined in trust law, as from normal competition in markets for products and services. For monopoly utilities, most notoriously, pressure from all-powerful institutional shareholders to maximise returns has upset the balance between the interests of customers and investors. Instead of trying to balance these potentially conflicting interests, many utility managers are

having to put shareholders first and to leave regulators to bat for consumers. Price limits might increasingly be seen as a minimum, regulatory standards of service or quality as the maximum. If managers do not do this, they are liable to a takeover bid from another management that will, in competitive markets, consumers should not suffer. But vulnerable companies no longer dare, for instance, to provide more for employee pensions than they are obliged to.

In the City, the moral authority of the Bank of England has been worn away by competition. The injunction of the City Takeover Panel that merchant banks and their clients should abide by the spirit of the takeover code, not just its letter, now means nothing. No wonder many free-market champions in the financial services business now want statutory regulation on the lines of America's Securities and Exchange Commission. The press, long pilloried for the excesses brought by competition, avoids legal regulation only because that would conflict with broader freedom of the press.

In adland, the director of advertising at the Independent Television Commission, official arbiter of taste, agrees with Mr Holmes's thoughts but argues for self-restraint and self-regulation. Sadly, that is misplaced. Where market pressures are intense, morality is defined by law or regulation. In the coming decade, for better or worse, there will be a lot more of that.

Patricia Tehan finds TSB's merchant banking arm in confident mood

Hill Samuel is not for sale

Although the "For Sale" sign was officially taken down from Hill Samuel over a year ago, it has not been enough to stop the sale rumours resurfacing. Hugh Freedberg, the chief executive, is clearly irritated that the stock market still does not seem to believe the TSB corporate line since December 1993 that Hill Samuel was an important part of the group. Staff and clients, he insists, have been convinced.

It is easy to understand why doubts persist and why sale rumours are revived each time

there is a movement in the share price. Retail banking, not merchant banking, is after all, TSB's core business.

Mr Freedberg was brought in to Hill Samuel from TSB's investment and insurance division in March 1991 to turn the loss-making business around. When he arrived, the bank had a balance sheet of £10 billion, 2,300 staff, and a loan book of £5 billion. It had just unveiled a loss of £40 million for the year to October 31 and in 1991, when he began to address the bad debt problems, the loss increased to £42 million.

TSB had paid £777 million for Hill Samuel in 1987. Since then, losses on Hill Samuel's corporate loan portfolio have been £1 billion between 1990 and 1993.

Mr Freedberg says that when he arrived, it was a question of all hands to the pump, all fingers in the dike. There was a lot going on in terms of thinking about businesses we wanted to keep, businesses we wanted to shrink, businesses we wanted to close.

Hill Samuel is now a different animal. It has a balance sheet of £5.4 billion, staff of 800, after a series of job cuts and disposals of non-core businesses, and a loan book of £2.2 billion that has just started to grow again.

Mr Freedberg says that the strategy is now to focus on activities that do not tie up large units of capital by lending for the sake of lending.

Hill Samuel is back in profit. It published profits for 1994 from ongoing businesses of £81 million, up from £76 million in the previous year.

Its return on equity last year was 11 per cent, though Mr Freedberg says that it would be closer to TSB's 15 per cent target if capital were not tied up overseas. It will be another three years before it reaches the target.

Mr Freedberg has initiated a disposal programme that has seen Hill Samuel focus on its core banking and asset management operations.

By 1993, most of the remaining Hill Samuel businesses were "doing reasonably well in their particular markets", says Mr Freedberg. But there was no overall strategy and very little crossover.

Hill Samuel is now split into two businesses. Hill Samuel Bank includes corporate banking, corporate finance, private banking, international banking, asset finance and treasury and capital markets. Hill



Hugh Freedberg says talk of a sale is "damaging internally and externally"

Samuel Asset Management pulled together three fund management activities. These operations made pre-tax profits of £64 million, up 10 per cent on 1993.

In Hill Samuel Bank, the corporate banking operation is "the business that has undergone the most radical and dramatic change," says Mr Freedberg. "That really was because of the very huge loan loss problems that manifested themselves in 1991."

After he arrived, Mr Freedberg says that the bank underwent a full review of its loan portfolio. He says that most of 1991 and 1992 were spent sorting out the bad portfolio from the good portfolio, "trying to stem the losses".

In April 1991, Charles Barington was brought in from Brown Shipley to head corporate banking and in July, Clive Badcock came from Swiss Bank Corporation to become new head of credit, a new job.

Previously branches were in charge of their own credit risk management.

That autumn, the bank began to ring-fence its bad loans and to put into place a much-needed credit risk policy for lending business. In autumn 1992, a new loan administration unit containing bad debts of £1.3 billion was moved

out of Hill Samuel and is separately managed by TSB. Corporate banking has been focused on areas of specialist knowledge, mortgage portfolio sales, trade finance and acquisition finance.

The loan book is now at £2.2 billion and is now starting to grow again, Mr Freedberg says. "The role of corporate banking is to help us identify and build relationships that

we can then widen across the bank."

Corporate finance activity is also picking up again since the uncertainty over its ownership has been removed, says Mr Freedberg. He says that Hill Samuel has begun winning the sort of business that it failed to pick up before.

It has won three Government mandates, advising on the Channel Tunnel rail link, the National Lottery and the privatisation of the BBC's transmission services. Before

that, it advised the Government on the privatisation of British Airways in 1986.

The international banking operation opened offices in Hong Kong and South Africa last year. Mr Freedberg says that it is strong in project finance, aerospace finance and shipping finance.

One clear sign of TSB's intention to dispose of Hill Samuel two years ago was its decision in 1992 to separate the treasury operations of the two businesses, which had only been combined as recently as 1988. TSB's treasury operation was relocated to Birmingham. Hill Samuel's remained in London.

The bank has now decided to put the two Treasury operations back together again under a new head, David Fritchard, who joined this month from Royal Bank of Canada. The newly combined Treasury business will be called TSB-Hill Samuel Markets.

Last year, Hill Samuel turned its attention to its fund management operations, whose performance had been, at best, pretty average.

Fund management says Mr Freedberg is "an integral part of our strategy, but it has also been through a lot of change in the last couple of years". He

adds that evidence of TSB's new determination to invest in Hill Samuel can be found in the move of the fund management business to a new building last June.

Until March, the business was made up of TSB Investment Management, Target and Hill Samuel Investment Management. Last year, they were rebranded as Hill Samuel Asset Management and moved into a new office in Fleet Place and adopted a common investment policy.

Mr Freedberg says that the strategy now is to "take full advantage of Hill Samuel's skills combined with TSB Group's capital strength, customer base and distribution capacity". But the rumours continue. The two are not a natural fit. There are few overlaps in the two businesses or in their client bases, and TSB has never been wholeheartedly convincing in any efforts to show that the merchant bank was not for sale during 1993. In fact, Mr Freedberg says that there were some approaches, but they came to nothing.

He says that TSB has now accepted the need to put the past behind it and work with what it has got. "Once the TSB had recognised that the bank had been stabilised and sorted out and there was the makings of a business that, going forward, could grow its contribution to the group profits there was no point in allowing speculation to damage the rehabilitation of the bank," he adds.

In a business that is heavily dependent on retaining the confidence of its staff and customers, "that kind of talk is damaging internally and externally", he says.

There is no substance to the recent rumour that Hill Samuel is up for sale, he says. "We find it irritating because there is no substance to it. We wish people would get away from thinking about what happened three years ago. We are stable, we do have a strategy, we have certainty of ownership."

Hill Samuel is trying to put the past behind it, he says, and build for the future. "As far as our clients are concerned, it is not an issue any more. The important thing is that we now continue to make a good contribution to group profitability and improve our profitability, but not by doing silly things. We do not have a strategy that will deliver miracles in 12 months. We are taking a three- to five-year view."

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A difficult musical birth

Diary of a Composition. Radio 3, 9.10pm.

The world premiere of *Ad Ora Incerta*, Simon Bainbridge's setting for mezzo soprano, bassoon and orchestra of four poems by Primo Levi, is broadcast on Radio 3 on Wednesday night. This means that the relay, from the Festival Hall, will come halfway through the five-part *Diary of a Composition* which starts tonight and ends on Friday. Bainbridge commits his thoughts to his tape-recorder. This is a splendid way of chronicling the progress and lack of progress, being making with the work. For us the listeners, the audio-diary will give Wednesday's broadcast an additional layer of interest. Tonight's episode gives no hint of the schedule-wrecking blow waiting to fall on the composer's head.

Counterpoint. Radio 4, 12.25pm.

It is the grand final of Ned Sherrin's musical quiz. I predict my heart will be pounding in time with those of the contestants: Lucia Sparrow, Geoff Thomas and Mike Chivers. *Counterpoint* is a fast and furious affair. You would not expect anything else of a programme conducted by Sherrin. The odd joke apart, he keeps his victims' noses to the grindstone. The questions are rarely esoteric: nobody is asked, for instance, to give a work's opus number. A final comment after much prompting by me (and, I suspect, others) Sherrin now pronounces "questionable" property. The irritation of his Italian fans has been appeased. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Bruno Brookes 6.30 Steve Wright 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa 'Anson, including at 12.30 12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Clive Wilman, including at 5.30 5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 8.00 Alan Parker 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 11.00pm Lyn Parsons

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 6.00am Martin Kellner 7.30 Sarah Kennedy 9.15 Pauline Wright 9.30 Ken Bruce, including at 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm John Peel 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.30 John Peel 7.00 Hubert 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Up in Lights: Ron Moody talks about the role of Fagin in *Oliver!* 10.30 The Jamieson 12.00am Digby Fairweather 1.00 Colin Barry 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports, incl at 6.45 Wake the Money 8.00 The Strategist Programme, incl at 8.55 and 7.55 Racing Preview 9.30 The Magazine, incl at 10.35 Euronews, 11.00 Actuality 12.00 Midday with News, incl at 12.30 Moneycheck 2.05 Russcoe on Five 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.20 Sport 7.30 Both Sides of the River: the football rivalry between Argentina and Uruguay 7.45 East Midlands Football Forum 10.00 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, incl at 11.45 The Financial World Tonight 12.00am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Doe and Carol McGiffin 10.00 Scott Chisholm 1.00pm Anna Reaburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00 Samantha Miah and Sean Bolger 10.00 Casser the Gossip 1.00pm Wild At Heart

CLASSIC FM

6.00am Nick Bailey 8.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susan Simons 2.00pm Lunchtime Concerto 3.00 Jamie Clark 6.00 Reports 7.00 to 7.30 The Music 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00pm Andrei Leon

VIRGIN

6.00am Russ'n'Jono 8.00 Richard Skinner 3.00 Graham-Dene 4.00pm Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Paul Coyne 11.00 Nick About 2.00-6.00pm Jenny Sisco

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University: Culture and Conflict — Jews and Christians in Renaissance Venice 8.55 Weather 7.00 On Air: Chopin (Mazurka in B flat minor, Op 24 No 4); Elber (Ballade a 10 in D); Glazunov (Symphonie Concerto in E flat); Weber (Overture: Oberon); Handel (Troppe cruda, troppa fiera); Ravel (Schéhérazade)

9.00 Composer of the Week: Pierre Boulez at 70. Notations (Pi-Hsien Chen, piano); Don, Pi-Hsien Pi (Phyllis Bryn-Julien, soprano); Dialogue de Tombe double (Alain Denvers, clarinet); Notations (Pans Orchestra, piano)

10.00 Musical Encounters: With Chris Wines. Off (Wenn ihr nachts aus Taborer, Der Mond); Mozart (Flute Quartet in D); Pary (Love is a Sickness: Music, when soft voices die); Stanford (The Bluebird); 10.20 Artist of the Week: Dru Lipsett, piano; Bach (Partita No 1 in B flat); 10.52 Delius (To be sung on a summer night on the water); Elgar (Love's Tempest; Go the song of mine); Mozart (Piano Concerto No 21 in C)

12.00 Singing in the Rain: The Vienna State Opera company 1945-1955 after the bombing of its home theatre 1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert: Vainqueur Quartet performs Britten (Three Divertimenti); Schubert (String Quartet in A minor)

2.00 Soundbite: 20th-Century Soundbite 2.15 Storybook 2.25 Let's Move 2.45 First Steps in Drama

5.55am Shipping 6.00 News 6.10 Farring Today 6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30 Today, including 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 News 7.25, 8.25 News 7.45 Thought for the Day 8.40 History File 8.58 Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvin Bragg and Jenny Thynne, with Simon Cadogan, P. Branson, Leslie Felipin and Nick Brown 10.00-10.30 News: Dear Diary (FM only): Anne Harvey introduces the 18th-century journals of the young girls

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) 10.15 Something Understood (LW only): Places of Worship, a new spiritual anthology 10.30 Woman's Hour: Jean Murray meets the conductor Andrea Quinn 11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444

12.00 News: You and Yours: With Dame Brehn 12.25pm Counterpoint: See Choc 12.55 Weather 1.00 The World at One: With Nick Clark 1.40 The Archers (1.55 Shipping Forecast 2.00 News: The Tree of Liberty: A four-part detective series by Nigel Baldwin, set in Arnhem in 1792

3.00 The Afternoon Shift 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope: Nathalie Whelan reads a new biography of the American lyricist Lorenz Hart and reviews a collection of recent issues on CD 4.45 Short Story: Sheer Hell, by Michael Carson 5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast 5.55 Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The 1 o'clock News, with Barry Took, Times columnist Alan Coren, Nick Clarke, Simon Hoggart and Jeremy Hardy 7.00 News 7.05 The Archers 7.20 The Food Programme, with Derek Cooper (1) 7.45 The Archers: A play about gamblers drawn to Las Vegas opened this month at the Royal Court Theatre in London, and in this collaboration with Radio 4, the stage cast performs a radio version of the play. With Nicholas Farrell, Annabel Boxer and Cheryl Campbell

9.15 Letters from Another Time: Michael Goldfarb presents the first of a three-part series of letters that might have been written over the last 25 years. In May 1970, four students were shot dead at Kent State University in Washington DC 9.30 Kaleidoscope (1) 9.59 Weather

10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Gail Roberts' latest story, read in five parts by the Archers 11.00-11.30 The Travellers' Souk (FM only): Annabel Forme and Robert Ellis look at the joys and delights of selling a radio version of the play. With Nicholas Farrell, Annabel Boxer and Cheryl Campbell

11.00-11.30 Education Matters (LW only) 11.30-12.00 The Vacillations of Poppy Carrver: Final part of the chronicle of Mary Weston's novel (1) 11.30 Today in Parliament (LW) 12.00-12.45am News incl 12.27 Weather 12.50 Shipping Forecast 12.52 to 1.00 World Service (LW only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.8-98.8, RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: 198kHz/1515m; FM 82.4-94.6, LW 138, RADIO 5: 97.3, CAPITAL: 1548kHz/194m; FM 85.8, GLR: FM 84.9; WORLD SERVICE: MW 648kHz/450m; LW 198kHz; 12.45m-5.55am, CLASSIC: FM 100-102, VIRGIN: MW-1215, 1197, 1212 kHz, TALK: RADIO: MW 1089, 1053kHz/1515m compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Moore

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HONG KONG	40	70
TAIWAN	40	104
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Tunnel vision

HANDS up those of you who have been through the Channel Tunnel. And how many of you have travelled in four different modes of transport, wearing pin-stripes, bowler hat and carrying a rolled umbrella? Well, Charles Dampany, a former building analyst with Savory Millin, BZW and Gilbert Elliott, and now with the Lewes broker Burroughs Johnstone, where he is head of research, has. Charles walked through the tunnel on "Le Walk" in February last year. He went on a freight shuttle in May, travelled on Eurostar this February and, finally, he made it on the car shuttle two weeks ago. His last jaunt, wearing pin-stripes and bowler hat, certainly enlivened the trip for

four Sussex ladies on a day trip to France. They were in the car behind his on the shuttle and were rather surprised to see his impersonation of a male stripper as he changed from pin-stripes to jeans and a sweater for the return journey.

Pep on parade

IF YOU ever doubted Pep managers sleep in the afternoon, here is the proof. Nick Nichols, supremo of PEPMA, the Pep managers' trade body, was caught napping at 4pm last week — in a sleeping bag on Salisbury Plain. His nap was, I'm told, all in his duty for Queen and Country. Nick is a reserve paratrooper with 5 Airborne Brigade, and the night before had been on manoeuvres. So he just happened to be asleep at 4pm when my colleague dialled his



mobile number. Nick leapt up rapidly, retrieved his Filofax from his sleeping bag, and then, bright as a button, rattled off his thoughts on the Peps market over the past year. Now, who said Pep chaps always sleep?

CHOCOLATE Easter eggs have gone on sale in a Yeovil shop bearing the label: "Free-range, salmonella-free, listeria-free and lead-free. All at no extra charge."

Tiny's legacy

SIR JOHN LEAHY, former Ambassador to South Africa, and thus well used to diplomatic language and coded phrases, was given his first taste on Friday of what an Lorrho annual meeting is like, of which he was the chairman. Somebody shouted "Judas" at him. "Don't

Jeers and questions met by silence at C&G meeting

By Liz Dolan

MORE than 1,000 Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society members travelled to Cheltenham at the weekend for a special meeting at which none of their questions about the takeover of the society by Lloyds Bank were answered.

The meeting at Cheltenham Town Hall came on the eve of a crucial week for building societies. It was held after Friday's deadline for postal votes on the C&G and Lloyds

Bank merger, but before the High Court's decision, due tomorrow, on the validity of benefits proposed for members of the Halifax and the Leeds societies, which in November revealed plans for a merger and subsequent flotation. The latter will benefit all members of both societies, including borrowers, whereas the terms of the C&G/Lloyds merger exclude all borrowers and more than 10 per cent of investors from a share of the £1.8 billion payout.

The C&G meeting was forced on

the board by C&G Alternatives, the 3,000-strong action group, which wants a rethink of the society's merger plans.

Members jeered, stamped and slow-handclapped as question after question from the floor during Saturday's meeting was met with complete silence by assembled board members. Ignoring repeated chants of "answer, answer", John Bays, the chairman, could only refer members to a prepared statement that he intended to read out at the

end of the meeting, as he called for further questions.

Andrew Longhurst, the chief executive, who made no attempt during the meeting to give reasons for his silence, told journalists afterwards that individual questions could not be answered because: "We cannot give information to a small group of investors. We have to be careful that all information is made available to all members." Borrowers were not allowed to attend the meeting. Mr Longhurst added that answers to a

number of questions were included in the prepared statement which, in the event, was never read out.

Virtually all those at the meeting voted in favour of all four resolutions but, when votes sent in by members who did not wish to attend were included, the resolutions were lost by a majority of two to one.

Paul Rivlin, leader of C&G Alternatives, said: "We always knew the result would be determined outside the hall." He denied the meeting had been a waste of time because:

"A lot of people wanted the board to hear what they had to say. If mutuality means anything at all, their views should be heard."

If Saturday's result was mirrored at the official merger meeting, to be held in London on Friday, March 31, the takeover will be blocked. But this is considered unlikely as fewer than 45,000 of the 1.3 million members voted on the resolutions. For the merger to go through, at least 75 per cent of investors who vote must be in favour.

Euro Bank may quit HQ in the City

By Colin Naeve

THE European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) could soon leave its lavish premises in Broadgate in the City as a result of the cost-cutting programme imposed by Jacques de Larosière, its president.

However, bank officials yesterday dismissed reports that the German Government had invited the EBRD to leave its Broadgate headquarters for Bonn. They underlined that the bank's statutes set out that it will be based in London.

The EBRD has a 25-year lease agreement with Deutsche Bank, but Deutsche's plan to concentrate its international investment banking in the City could provide the EBRD with an escape route.

M de Larosière has sought to cut costs by sub-letting parts of the building, but still considers the £17 million annual rental bill too high. Docklands is understood to be one of the options he is considering.

The Russian nuclear industry, whose lax safety regime has long concerned Western experts, is to become a partner in the Slovak power plant project that is the biggest investment planned to date by the bank. Inclusion of the Russians is likely to increase opposition to the scheme. Last week, Slovakia requested that an EBRD decision today on financing be postponed indefinitely.

Signet faces pressure for meeting

SIGNET, the jewellery group formerly known as Ratners, is expected this week to bow to calls for a special shareholders' meeting to discuss ways of enhancing investor value (Jon Ashworth writes).

Bank of New York, acting for American investors, is understood to have collected enough votes to requisition a meeting. The requisition order is expected to be submitted to James McAdam, chairman of Signet, in the next few days.

The move comes in the wake of growing dissent from holders of preference shares, who are owed more than £100 million in unpaid dividends.

Goldsmiths, the jeweller, and Argos, the shopping group, are interested in Signet's UK jewellery chains, H Samuel and Ernest Jones.

S&N close to £600m deal for Courage

By Jon Ashworth

SCOTTISH & Newcastle (S&N) is poised to buy Courage for up to £600 million in what will herald a sweeping shakeout in the UK brewing sector.

The move would create Britain's biggest brewing group, and go a long way towards removing the overcapacity that has plagued the sector.

Talks on a potential deal are understood to be at an advanced stage, although sources close to the companies emphasise that no decisions have been taken. S&N would not be drawn on speculation yesterday. The company has been examining ways of restructuring its UK operations.

The deal is almost certain to catch the eye of the Office of Fair Trading, which is conducting an inquiry into wholesale beer prices. Big brewing chains, including Courage, have been compelled to grant huge discounts to independent pub owners to persuade them to take their products. This has opened a gulf between discounted prices and the deals on offer to the brewers' own tied public houses.

The enlarged group would embrace some of the UK's best selling brands. Courage, owned by Foster's, the Australian brewer, is known for its Directors bitter, Webster's

and John Smiths. It distributes Kronenbourg and Holsten. S&N is expected to win the rights to brew and distribute Foster's in the UK and Europe as part of the deal. Foster's bought Courage for £1.4 billion in 1986, but subsequently wrote down the value of its Courage assets as a perceived sweetener for prospective buyers.

S&N, based in Edinburgh, owns Theakston's, Younger's and Newcastle Brown. It distributes premium bottled beers such as Beck's, from Germany, and Coors, from America. S&N has a high-quality pub estate, bolstered by the purchase of 1,650 Chef & Brewer outlets from Grand Metropolitan in 1993.

The deal would bring synergies. Courage tends to focus on the territory south of Birmingham, while S&N is strong in Scotland and the North.

Whitbread was in the bidding for Courage, but withdrew from negotiations this month. Courage has about 20 per cent of the UK beer market, making it the second biggest player after Bass. A deal with S&N, with a 12 per cent market share, would eclipse Bass.

Brewing and public houses each contribute about a third of S&N's profits. The rest

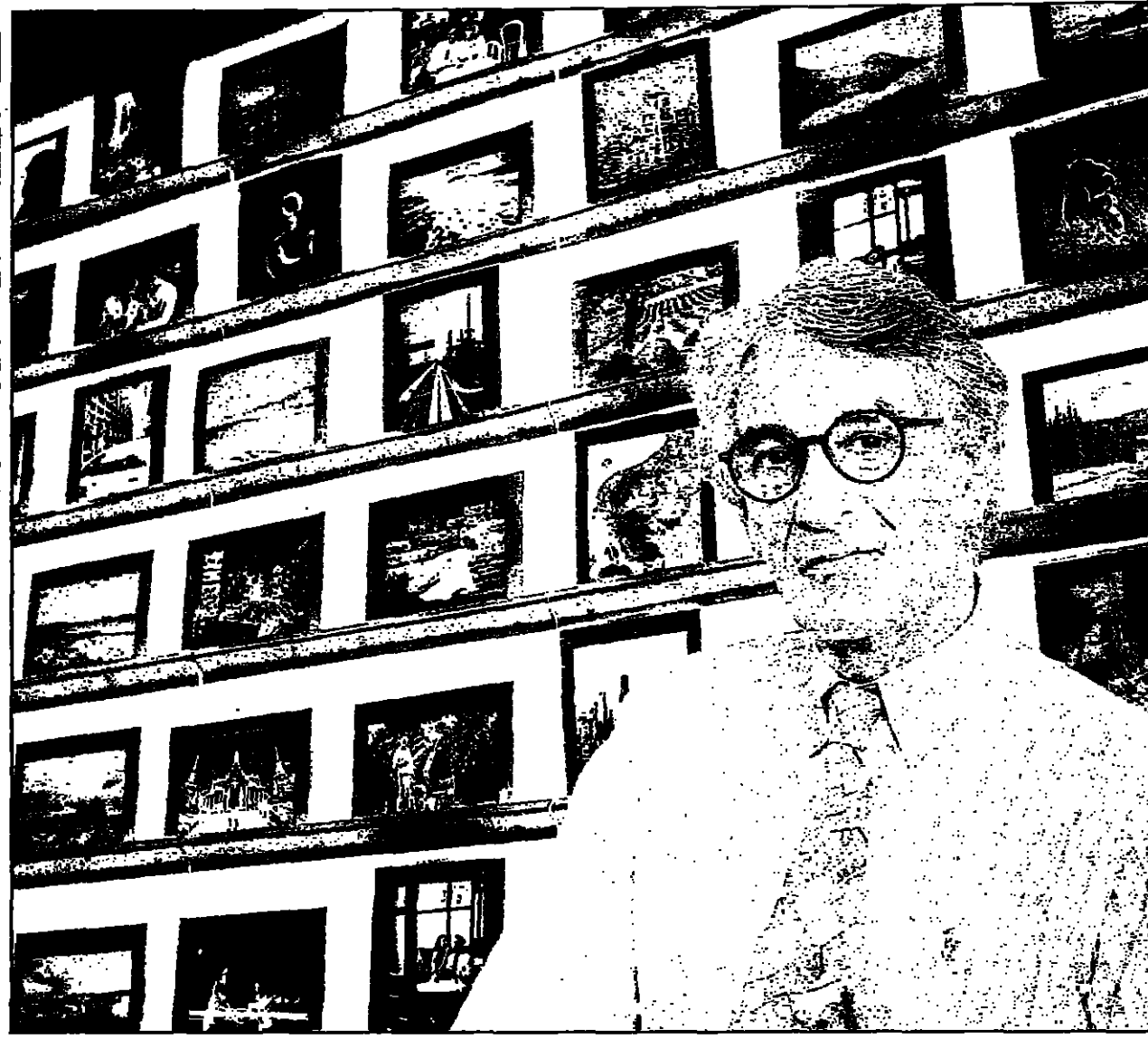
comes from a highly profitable investment in CenterParcs, the holiday resort chain.

The link between the two houses would come against a backdrop of unprecedented change in the brewing sector. Big players such as Courage and Bass have become burdened by excess brewing capacity at a time when supermarket sales and direct imports are cutting deeply into beer consumption. Half a dozen supermarket chains are said to have captured 50 per cent of all beer sales. The sale of Courage could lead to the closure of unwanted plants.

Brewers are concerned about the flood of cheap beer from France. A price war in the wholesale market has seen discounts of up to 40 per cent on a barrel of beer and bitten deeply into margins.

The brewing industry has been in a state of flux since 1989, when a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry gave rise to the "Beer Orders", which aimed at ending the big brewers' stranglehold on Britain's pubs.

The brewers were forced either into mass sell-offs of their pub portfolios or into releasing many outlets from the ties that required them to stock their owners' brands. More than 2,500 jobs are to be created this year by Whitbread Inns as part of an £85 million expansion of Brewers Fayre. The company plans to invest in 30 new sites. Next year, the chain should increase to more than 280.



The image is the message for Tony Stone, whose photo library has been bought by Getty Investment Holdings

Getty gets the image with Tony Stone

By Jon Ashworth

A CONSORTIUM backed by the Getty family, Hambros Bank and Lord Rothschild has bought Tony Stone Images (TSI), one of the world's top five non-news photo libraries, in a deal worth up to £30 million. The purchase of the north London company is the first in a planned series of strategic acquisitions.

Getty Investment Holdings,

a US-based holding company, is understood to have paid between £15 million and £30 million for an 80 per cent stake in TSI. Existing management has bought the rest.

Mr Stone, the South African-born photographer who founded the company in 1969, said the deal would help propel TSI into a new phase of growth. He said: "Our

plans for expansion can now be followed a little faster. Not only are we going to become a major presence in East Asia, but we haven't even started looking at South America."

The agency draws on a core collection of 30,000 contemporary colour images for use by advertising agencies and design consultancies for an average fee of £400 per sale. Two

former Hambros bankers, Mark Getty and Jonathan Klein, became joint chairmen of TSI. The pair have spent more than a year seeking a suitable acquisition for the Getty family trusts with a view to building a focused investment portfolio. The Getty family sold their oil interests to Texaco for \$11 billion in the early 1980s.

Personnel managers favour action on top executives' pay

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S personnel managers overwhelmingly believe that action is now necessary to control top company executives' pay.

The findings of a survey of personnel directors and managers come as pressure continues to mount over senior corporate salaries, especially those in privatised utilities. The Commons' all-party Employment Select Committee will continue its inquiry into the issue tomorrow.

The survey, carried out for Personnel Today, suggests

that unease about top executives' pay runs to high levels in Britain's companies. The survey of a sample of 400 personnel leaders shows that as many as four out of five of the UK's personnel directors and managers believe action over top pay is now necessary.

When asked about the committee set up by the Confederation of British Industry under Sir Richard Greenbury, the Marks & Spencer chairman, 80 per cent of those surveyed were in favour of new moves. While two-thirds

believed that the Greenbury committee should draw up a voluntary code to control pay, only 35 per cent were in favour of it advocating a legislative approach.

Asked specifically whether they would back legislation that made directors' pay subject to shareholders' approval, support for new laws was much stronger, with 71 per cent in favour, and only 27 per cent against.

The survey shows little difference throughout between personnel specialists at direc-

tor and manager level, with support for new laws giving shareholders approval over directors' pay backed by 68 per cent of personnel directors and 71 per cent of managers.

In reply to the survey, Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the Institute of Directors and a member of the Greenbury committee, makes clear his opposition to new legislation. He said: "It would be a short step to a pay policy which would move down the ladder to managers and employees."

On pay in the economy generally, settlements are rising in line with inflation, with most companies paying larger increases now than they did a year ago, according to the latest evidence on pay deals.

Looking at more than 230 pay settlements in the first three months of the year, Incomes Data Services, the independent pay analyst, suggests that two-thirds of the deals studied are now providing for increases of 3 per cent or more, although it says that most deals have not yet taken account of the recent jump in inflation. Retail price inflation rose again last week from 3.2 to 3.3 per cent.

But higher inflation is starting to show through, IDS suggests, citing Shell UK oil increasing its pay offer to 500 process workers at its Stanlow refinery on Merseyside from 3 to 3.35 per cent after the sharp increase in inflation in January from 2.9 to 3.3 per cent was announced. The deal, which had been rejected by the workforce, was then accepted.

IDS says that a third of deals are now running at 2 to 2.9 per cent.

Offer to Polly Peck creditors

CREDITORS of Polly Peck International are being offered a first distribution of 1.75p in the pound.

The proposed scheme of arrangement has been posted to 1,200 creditors of the company, which went into administration in October 1990 with estimated debts of £1.3 billion.

Asil Nadir, the chairman, jumped bail in 1993 and fled from Britain to northern Cyprus to avoid prosecution on charges of theft and false accounting involving £34 million.

The total payment of £23 million is at the top end of the range indicated to creditors in November.

Chris Barlow, the administrator, said yesterday that he expected up to a further 2.6p in the pound to be paid from the sale of the northern Cyprus assets and the sale of an 18 per cent stake in



Nadir: serious blow

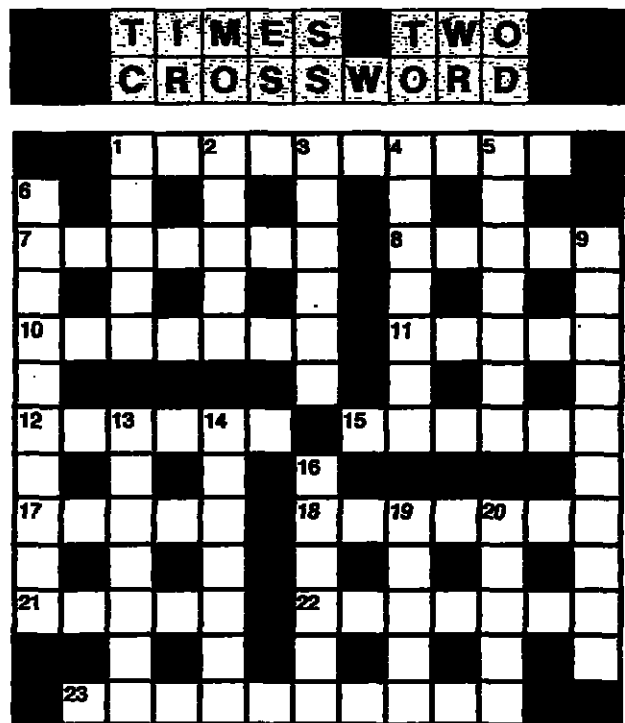
Sansui, the electronics firm. This estimate excludes any money recovered from Stoy Hayward, the accountant, and Citibank, which is being pursued for claims running into several hundred million pounds.

Approval of the scheme by creditors will be sought at a

meeting scheduled to be held in London on April 26. It was announced on Friday that the northern Cyprus assets, including hotels, Unipac, a cardboard box company, and Sunwest, a citrus fruit operation, had been bought by Learned, a Turkish-Cypriot company.

Mr Barlow said: "I am delighted to say that, if approved, this scheme will allow us to make a distribution to creditors which will be at the upper end of the range we indicated in our November 1994 report to creditors. Further distributions are likely to follow as and when assets are realised."

Shareholders of Polly Peck International will receive nothing under the scheme of arrangement. The sale of the businesses represents a serious financial blow to Mr Nadir.



No 430

ACROSS

- 1 Risk all in gamble (2,3,5)
- 7 Green gem (7)
- 8 Greek city-state; law and order force (5)
- 10 First Christian martyr (7)
- 11 Loire province, formerly English (5)
- 12 Horrified (6)
- 15 Team, cast member (6)
- 17 Striped game animal (5)
- 18 Provided with (money, qualities) (7)
- 21 Assessed (5)
- 22 Salty inland lake (4,3)
- 23 Retail display deadline (4-2,4)

SOLUTION TO NO 429

ACROSS: 1 Baffle 5 Debank 8 Gar 9 Eyes down 10 Flag on 12 Gamp 15 Objectionable 16 Dean 17 Bodkin 19 Idee fixe 21 Plug 22 Switch 23 Outlet

DOWN: 2 Available 3 Fat 4 Eternity 5 Diet 6 Body-guard 7 New 11 Green belt 13 Multitude 14 Sombbrero 18 High 20 Dew 21 Pat

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